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AND

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DEATHS.

On July 6th, at Shanghai, F. A. RAAN, late Officer, China Merchants' S. N. Co., aged 26 years.
On July 20th, at 7 a.m., at the Government Civil Hospital, BEATRICE TERESA KENNETT, aged 58.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of June 18th arrived, per the s.s. *Zieten*, on Wednesday, the 17th instant; and the French Mail of June 21st arrived, per the s.s. *Salazie*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

On July 16th an Indian watchman in the employ of Talati and Co. was attacked late at night in his matshed at Wanohai. It is believed that his assailants were compatriots. At any rate a commotion was heard in the locality and when the police arrived on the scene they found the man in such a serious state that he was removed to the hospital. It is understood that the man was to be a witness in the murder trial.
A sickening discovery was made on July 16th at No. 1, Sowkeewan Road. An Indian policeman was attracted by a suspicious odour, and eventually, after the house was broken into, a corpse in an advanced stage of decomposition was found, with a wound in the throat suggesting suicide. It has been identified as that of an Italian male, about fifty years old, name at present unknown, who was often seen in the city following his occupation as a hawker.

A Tientsin correspondent writes to a local paper and asks:—"Why cannot we have good made ice here; as in other Treaty ports and throughout Japan and the Far East? Pure ice-making always pays; and it is somewhat extraordinary that Tientsin is almost the only place on the coast where we can not purchase pure ice; a few people here manage to get small quantities from the steamers, but only a favoured few. I am sure any man starting to make ice would find it pay well.

Two natives who attempted to make something by "informing" have been discovered, and as a result one is undergoing two months' hard labour, and the other six months in addition to having spent six hours in the stocks. They had gone to the Opium Farmer with a tale of opium being concealed on a steamer in the harbour. Their particulars were so minute that suspicion was aroused and on the advice of the police they were detained while the vessel was searched. The opium was found as stated, and after further inquiries had been made, one of the men admitted that they had "planted" the opium.

At Peking on July 8th was issued a Decree in the name of the Empress Dowager granting permission to any one to present suggestions to the Throne as to the best and speediest manner of introducing parliamentary representation and a Constitution into the Empire. Permission is given to those residing in Peking irrespective of personal rank or standing to present their memorial through the Censorate, while those in the provinces may do so through their Viceroys, Governors and Tartar Generals. These high officials must not however see to it that the suggestions presented shall be of a workable and feasible nature and not of the visionary type, which experience has shown is by no means infrequent.

In his report for 1906, published in the *Gazette*, Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, states that during the year an increasing number of ores and of metals were examined. Most of the metals were various qualities of Chinese tin, of which from 4,000 to 6,000 tons annually pass through Hongkong from Mongtze, Yunnan. The refining of this tin is now one of Hongkong's small industries. The process of purification is carefully done, and is quite successful. It is hoped that, despite counter attractions in the mode of carriage from the mines, this tin may still be dealt with in Hongkong. As the trade and refining has now been carried on here for five years, there seems to be a good prospect of its continuance and increase.

For the first time in the history of China, a competitive examination was held on the 3rd, 4th and 5th instant in Peking by order of the Ministry of Education, of young men and ladies desirous of going to the United States to study under Government auspices. No less than seventy-two young men and twelve young ladies presented themselves, and the following topics were given for examination on the first day, English compositions; translations from English into Chinese, and vice versa; Latin, French, German, and arithmetic. On the second day, chemistry and physiology; and on the third day, History, Geography, Chinese Composition and Algebra. It is satisfactory to learn that most of the examination papers were well written, the only failures being those on languages. These competitive examinations are to be made annually.

Admiral Sah, Commander-in-Chief of the combined Peiyang and Nanyang Squadrons, has recommended to the Throne, as one of the first steps in the reorganization of the Chinese Navy, the construction of ten medium-sized cruisers of modern type to train officers and seamen. As the number of officers and men is increased each year, there will, in time, be a sufficiency of trained men to constitute proper crews for the moderate-sized battleships and armoured cruisers that are to be successively ordered from abroad, in the meanwhile.

That great interest is taken by the Chinese community in the efforts of a number of Chinese gentlemen to prevent the dumping evil was made manifest by the large gathering at the Ko Shing theatre on Saturday afternoon when the third lecture was delivered by Mr. Ho Kung-tong, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brawin, Registrar-General, presided, and introduced the speaker who, after a lengthy discourse on the sanitary laws of the Colony and the growth of the evil practice among Chinese of casting away their dead, asked his hearers to avail themselves more freely of the advantages of the free district dispensaries which had primarily been established for the benefit of the poor. "By observance of the sanitary laws of Hongkong", continued the speaker, "the Chinese are certain to secure greater immunity from epidemic diseases and insure for themselves better and healthful surroundings." The speaker concluded an interesting address with a song which embodied in verse the salient points of the lecture. A vote of thanks to the speaker and the chairman ended the proceedings.

An extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Shanghai Club was held on July 9th. It was well attended. Mr. J. C. Hanson was in the chair, and he moved three resolutions having for their object: the registration of the Club as an Association limited by guarantee, under the Hongkong Ordinances, the liability of each member not to exceed Tls. 10; the rebuilding of the Club in accordance with the scheme of which the members had already received notice, and the financial arrangement necessary for the same; the selection of suitable plans for a Club House, and the election of a building committee. The Chairman announced that Tls. 17,000 would shortly be called for in debentures, and the total sum required for the purchase of the present property, and the rebuilding is expected to be about Tls. 150,000. It is proposed to rent the building in Jinkoo Road, next to the German Club, while the rebuilding is in progress. The resolutions as proposed were adopted by an overwhelming majority.

As a result of the voting for Le Conseil d'Administration de la Concession Française, Shanghai, on July 10th, the following gentlemen were elected:—

M. Brazier de Thuy (French)	26 votes.
M. J. Gaillard	114 "
M. V. Berthoz	95 "
M. G. Ackermann	81 "
Mr. F. Ghisi (Foreign)	142 "
Mr. W. Lu Gro	138 "
Mr. W. M. Dowdall	91 "
Mr. J. M. Tavares	63 "

Fifteen candidates were nominated and those who were unsuccessful were MM. Marthoud, Ferrand, E. Tapernoux (French), and Messrs. B. A. Clarke, Hardoon, and A. D. Deyn (Foreign).

CHINA TEA AND PREFERENCE.

(Daily Press, 13th July).

The proposition from a not over wise member of the Tariff Reform party to reduce the duty on teas imported from British possessions led to the not unnatural retort from Mr. ASQUITH that, seeing that British teas without any preferential duty had already practically ousted China teas from the home markets, and were rapidly gaining possession of the chief foreign markets, including Russia, they hardly represented an argument in favour of preferential tariffs. Of course Mr. ASQUITH, being a Chancellor of the Exchequer, and being deeply committed to the pretended Free-Trade party, was quite unable to see that in reality the transfer of the Tea Trade from Chinese to British hands was one of the strongest arguments against the happy-go-lucky school which would view with indifference the transfer of British industries to our trade rivals. As a fact, as all those who have had personal experience of the case are aware, the transfer of the tea producing business from China to British India and Ceylon was altogether brought about by preferential duties, and still more to the point, in the present condition of British trade generally, the preference in favour of India proceeded from the wrong-headed action of the Chinese Government, who in the face of warnings to the contrary would proceed in its suicidal policy of levying duties on the export; and not only did this itself but backed up the provincials in imposing growers' taxes, so that actually the trade was strangled to death, while, of course, the Indian producer had none but the ordinary taxes of the country to pay. Although, then, he enjoyed in the British Islands no preference, and had nothing more to pay in the way of duty than his Chinese competitor, the action of the Chinese Government was practically preferential inasmuch as it encouraged protection, — and that protection of the worst character for a nation to adopt, namely the protection of outsiders against itself. This, however, is the policy to which the present home Government has irrevocably committed itself under the pseudonym of Free-Trade. Its application, under methods the exact converse in many respects of Chinese protection of the Indian tea trade, in no respect alters the terms of the problem. In point of fact, while we ourselves rightly would not touch the unclean beast of protection with one of our fingers, by holding out inducements to our competitors to glut our markets with bounty fed goods, we are really giving our support to protection in its very worst shape, that of helping on by our connivance the flooding of our home markets with goods, whose sole existence is due to the very same financial sin against which we hypocritically turn up our financially pious eyes, and utter our sentimental homilies. The policy of preferential trade with the Colonies stands, of course, on very different grounds, which are those of political experience. Logically Free-Trade is the best of ideal positions; every burden which an article has to bear of course lessens its capacity for consumption. But all nations in every stage of progress have found demands of revenue cropping up and necessitating some levy. Logically, again, all goods should be equally taxed, so as to insure that each commodity should go out into the world on equal footing; but here again the common practice of the world has come to the conclusion that all commodities do not demand or deserve equal treatment. For instance intoxicating

liquors or tobacco have been looked upon as either in themselves injurious, or as matters of luxury have no cause of complaint if we tax them higher. But all these are equally sins against the gospel of Free-Trade, so that if we pass them by, we make the tacit acknowledgement that after all Free-Trade is but a matter of adjustment and, leaving the abstract, we are justified in making terms with what our reasoning has led us to hold is mortal sin.

It is equally capable of proof that the partial readjustment of taxes between peoples closely allied by policy or sentiment is capable of being utilised in the public interest. At one time England, Scotland and Ireland had each their separate tariffs, and so late as the 18th century we find GEORGE II. declaring he had no intention of removing the disabilities on Irish made goods in English markets. By and by, under the influence of preferential idea, it was conceived that it might be advantageous to remove these internal duties, and let goods circulate more freely. By a certain interested clique the working man of the day was taught to believe this was equivalent to taxing his food. But slowly common sense prevailed, and even Mr. REDMOND and his irreconcilables would hardly urge the restoration of the duties. About sixty years ago some German statesmen advocated the establishment of a Zollverein and the reduction or decrease of duties between different countries of what is now the German Empire. Of course the pseudo-free-traders of the day objected. The tariff-reformers of the day, however, triumphed; and this was eventually one of the chief causes of the foundation of the German Empire. History, then, tells us that however blessed may be the doctrine of Free-trade, there may be something more holy still, and that is the amalgamation of Empire. Our Colonial Premiers who had learnt the lesson amidst hard experience and who have just succeeded in their own allotted tasks of empire-building, were anxious to impart their good tidings to His Majesty's home advisers; who wise in their short little England conceit rejected it as heresy against the Cobden Club. That is the lesson the people of Great Britain have, under their present teachers, forced upon them. Fortunately sense, after being absent for a little while, is returning, but the struggle of the dawn is hard, and needs our best efforts; and this is what the best of our Colonial statesmen have set themselves to do. A more useful lesson in the results of an unhealthy tariff than the transfer of the tea-trade from China to India could hardly have been found. True, England blundered into a good thing without at all understanding it, but it is time that she should learn to recognise that like China she is encouraging against herself her keenest competitors, and like China, she may also one day wake up and find that while she was indifferent her competitors had quietly stolen away her industries.

WAR BOOKS.

(Daily Press, July 15th.)

We have previously given our opinion of the mischievous rubbish that is printed in a certain class of political fiction—those stories that deal with hypothetical wars between friendly powers, and forecast their results. Sometimes they are written to emphasise the arguments of those who are anxious to prove the necessity of augmenting the army or navy of their respective countries, in which case as a story they are usually somewhat dull. At other times they are merely sensational or viciously

alienophobic. It is rarely that their concoctors seem able to realize, or to make their readers realize, what war really involves. If they did that, they might provide the antidote for their own poison. Mr. T. FISHER UNWIN has published a book called "Armageddon," translated from the German, which seems to us to do this. It is a thrilling story, with much in it that we would rather not have seen printed, but at the same time it should leave the average Jingo who reads it less inclined for fight than he was. Admiral FREMANTLE has written an introduction in which he very properly points out the superiorities of this narrative to the rest of its class. The anonymous author causes war to break out in a way that has recently had a curiously close coincidence. Trouble at Apia led to the landing of a naval force without the consent of the German governor, very much in the way that an American force was landed at Jamaica, contrary to the wishes of Governor SWETTENHAM. In the story, the American ship, seeing England embroiled, steamed away without insisting upon landing its men, and the suggestion of the German writer is that America deliberately sought and intrigued for such an outcome, for its own advantage. Admiral FREMANTLE considers it unjust to cast America for the part of Mephistopheles, and says it is a blot upon the book, "for though our American cousins are certainly cute enough, they have never shown themselves dishonourable in their political relations." There are other blots on the book he has failed to note, such as the ignoble part the French soldiers and sailors are made to play in the fighting. For after the first shots, France joins England, followed by Portugal and Spain, while Germany has the assistance of Austria and Italy. Russia, Japan and America sit on the fence and subsequently reap all the spoils of battle. The Kilkenny business is brought to an end in a curious "yellow peril" way, the writer picturing a pan-Asiatic league and simultaneous risings and massacres in Africa, India, and China, so that an armistice is arranged at the instance of the KAISER, while the united enemies march to fight the new peril and rescue their friends. Describing events in China, the author says: "Such events were the punishment of pious belief in the lies of those who had said that the religion of Love was able to modify the wild instincts of the Mongolian race. It was demonstrated that conversion among the Chinese had been only an external act, and that the water of baptism had not been able to alter in a day the racial character imprinted by centuries." While the impoverished and enfeebled allies were setting these matters right, Russia seized the Persian port of Bander-Abbas, and America set England an ultimatum to withdraw all her garrisons from her colonial possessions in the West Indies, from Jamaica, the Bahamas, British Honduras, and British Guiana. All these political changes and redistributions, however, are less convincing than the author's word pictures of war and its realities, and these are the parts that justify the whole. If every Californian Jingo and every Japanese Jingo could be made to digest these vivid passages, the present situation would soon be less strained than it seems to be.

The Minister of War at Peking has drawn the attention of the Government to the bad repair of the roads in the empire and he has asked that instructions be given to the viceroys and governors to have the roads made good so as to facilitate the movement of troops.

HOLLOW REFORMS.

(Daily Press, 16th July.)

Those who are interested in maintaining optimism with regard to reforms and symptoms of reform in China are still busy. Most of us will rejoice when there are sufficient facts to warrant their purposeful statements, but in the meantime the interests of truth require that we should not permit them to mislead the outside world. The thin end of the wedge of education has got in, but it is somewhat bent, and the correct line of cleavage is not yet being followed. Opium shops have been closed with some ostentation, but there is no Edict in operation against the private consumption of the drug, and it is being everywhere sold for consumption "off the premises." Mr. LUTTON, M.P., has told Mr. MORLEY that the English agitators are prepared to pay for their righteousness, which evoked from the latter some quite excusable cynicism. Mr. LUTTON had in his mind's eye only compensation to India; he and others will find that Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore will have equally valid claims to compensation, if it ever comes to such an issue, which we doubt. Juridical reforms we shall refer to presently. The most curious addition to the list of belauded reforms that we have noticed is that made by a Chinese gentleman at Shanghai. More than five years ago, the broad-minded Empress-Dowager abolished by Edict the law prohibiting the intermarriage of Manchus and Chinese, with a view to promoting more friendly relations. After more than five years, this Chinese gentleman appears to find satisfaction in the fact that he is able to cite three such marriages in high society, beside which he has "heard some other weddings took place between Manchu and Chinese lately," in families less influential, and so left un-named. The correct figures, which are scarcely to be hoped for, would be most interesting; but the inference to be drawn from this gentleman's observations is that the rapprochement due to the Empress-Dowager's act of 1902 is not remarkably conspicuous. On the other hand we have the assassination of the Governor of Anhui, EX MIN, by a Taotai who boasted that for ten years he had been studying how to overthrow the Manchus. We have not the slightest sympathy for the assassin or his friends, and we execrate his methods. There is no reason, however, why we should not search out the various aspects of the incident, and consider the same with as much detachment as possible. The first outcry over such incidents, whether the terrorists be Chinese, Russian, Spanish, or other, is one of shuddering horror. Those who will cheerfully write and talk of such wars as the Russo-Japanese, and allow "la gloire" to obscure the wholesale butchery, are wont to prate on such occasions as this of "The sanctity of human life." There is a cynical saying that a man who steals millions is less condemned than the petty thief, and it would seem that a like view is taken of murder. The few victims of a bomb provoke more tears than the thousands of mutilated corpses huddled up in the trenches of the battlefield. It is indeed very bad, this bomb and revolver business, and nothing can excuse it; but we would that the same public sentiment would be forthcoming to stand in the way of such light-hearted provocations to war as we are lately observing. The "sanctity of human life" is wholesale as well as retail, if it be admitted at all. The native detestation of the deed has not been expressed in such terms, however. Apparently the sanctity of human life is a meaningless

phrase in this empire. The sanctity of liberty and justice, worth far more than life—or rather, without which life is worthless—has received a severe blow. The Edict against summary decapitation has been as coolly disregarded as the edicts against judicial torture. The assassin was promptly executed, without trial, and so savage was officialdom at the outrage, that we learn the company of soldiers who had been acting as guards was wiped out to a man. In addition, the heart of the assassin was cut out, and offered to the *manes* of his victim. Reports from the north are at present somewhat conflicting. Anking is said to have remained quiet, and again it is reported that there was rioting and a fight with revolutionary students. We quite expect to learn later of the usual barbarities.

DOCTORS DISAGREE.

(Daily Press, July 17th.)

We had expectation of a rather pretty falling out, when *Truth* some weeks ago ventilated the matters of contention between the medical hierarchy and one Dr. SHAW. Dr. SHAW is or was a medical man of some eminence. An M.D. of London, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., Fellow and Vice-President of the British Gynecological Society, and Fellow of the British Electro-Therapeutic Society, he was also a specialist entrusted with particular cases at the North-West London Hospital. Cancer was apparently a hobby of his, and he entertains strong opinions as to the danger of surgical operations in such cases. The recognized medical journals having published some statements which he considered erroneous and dangerously misleading, he wrote to those journals—a correct professional proceeding—but was not granted publicity. Whereupon, in the interests, as he thinks, of countless suffering women, he wrote a book on fibroid tumour, and its treatment without the knife. The Royal College of Physicians taxed him with unprofessional conduct, and the upshot was that he resigned his degrees, and requested that his name be taken off the medical register. The latter request was refused. The question of the perils of the operation called hysterectomy is too technical for publication, and in a world where there is a common saying that "surgeons are too fond of using the knife," there seems little need to quote statistics to show that the mortality of the operating table is heavy. The larger question, speaking publicly as well as professionally, is opened up of whether the hierarchy that rules the profession in matters of etiquette and conduct is an honest administration, or whether it betrays the characteristics of a priesthood. Being curious on this point, we obtained a copy of Dr. SHAW's explanation, a 246-page book entitled "Medical Priestcraft, a National Peril." Full of his grievances, we find the author somewhat prolix, but at the same time there is no obscuring of his allegation that the British Medical Association has already become "a menace to professional liberty" and "inimical to the public weal." *Truth* has committed itself to the statement that the gravamen of Dr. SHAW's offence lies in the fact that he rejects the current opinion of the profession in a matter of profound importance, and that, being silenced by a sort of professional boycott, he appeals directly to the public by showing them what he believes to be the truth; and to punish this the professional machinery has been set in motion. If that be so, the public has a direct interest in the matter. But we do not think this book

will help the public much, for the simple reason that the public will not read so much to decide a comparatively simple issue. With regard to the professional features of the charge against Dr. SHAW, we feel justified in saying at once that he is a victim of hypocrisy. The non-advertising policy or principle of the medical profession is glaringly evaded by the whole squad, high and low, but with perhaps the worst examples among those whose eminence would argue they need advertisement least. There is certainly as much of the *ad captandum vulgus* in a letter to the *Lancet* as in a book on fibroid tumour dedicated to the laity, and the *Lancet* letter is likely to be read by a greater proportion of the laity than such a book would be. Medicine is a trade or business like most other things, and it is conducted by human beings with ordinary human needs. There are undoubtedly men clever at their work; and there are others who are—well, not clever. None of them is infallible, and in such a study a certain caution and deliberation in accepting new theories is desirable. On this ground we can excuse, if we cannot defend, the general attitude of orthodoxy to heterodoxy. Dr. SHAW has the misfortune to be heterodox at present. Some day, perhaps, when he is no longer above ground to derive satisfaction from the fact, his views will be orthodox. Medical science has progressed that way. In 1778 Dr. JOHN BROWN of Edinburgh was formally ostracised for attacking the indiscriminate practice of blood-letting, but nowadays the nickname of "leech" as applied to the profession would hardly be understood—unless (may we hint?) by those who have had to pay big fees to specialists! It seems rather mean of Dr. SHAW to tell stories against his own profession, but the provocation he has received has made him lavish of anecdotes which, we confess, we have read with some relish. We may close our reference with one specimen:

"A well-known doctor, now retired from active practice, told the writer the following incident. A patient of his, thinking to get an independent opinion, went to a certain throat specialist on his own account. The specialist took a very serious view of the case. An operation was necessary. What would it cost the patient? He could not at first say, but when pressed, the sum of sixty guineas was named. The patient went back to his medical friend in great distress, and the doctor thereupon wrote to the specialist, asking what treatment he could carry out for the patient at home. The specialist answered:—"Paint his throat twice a day with chloride of zinc, and if he is not well in a fortnight, let me see him again."

There is one very common operation, by the way, which tempts us to use a little more space to join Dr. SHAW in his denunciation of the *furor operativus*. We refer to the fashion or fad of appendicitis. How many persons have had their lives risked or lost by appendicectomy, as the doctor-folk call this trick of the carver, where a dose of salts might have done, we hardly dare to calculate. Why should it have been reserved for the last decade to discover the wickedness of the appendix? We hold the opinion, and got it before we ever heard of Dr. SHAW, that professional interest in that trick of the trade accounts for the apparent increase in appendicitis, and we hope that Sir FREDERICK TREVES, whose much advertised attendance on King EDWARD was partly responsible for the furor, will go as good a hearing for the warning he has since felt it necessary to issue, against the abuse of this surgical operation. It is suggested by Dr. SHAW, and we have little hesitation in accepting

the suggestion, that the 56 per cent. in the deaths "from appendicitis" are really largely due to appendicectomy—that is, to the operator's knife. Some German statistics (from the University Hospital at Heidelberg) are given to show that non-surgical treatment is possible, and indeed better, in the average case.

KOREAN INTRIGUES.

(Daily Press, 18th July.)

The Korean Emperor, like a fish in an overcrowded boat, has wriggled too much. Our Tokyo correspondent's recent telegram makes it appear that he is about to receive his quietus. It is impossible to feel much sympathy for him, his methods have been so contemptible; and they offer one of the best arguments, if such be needed, in favour of the desirability of Japanese control. It is unfortunate that foreigners like the American Mr. H. B. HULBERT should have been found to encourage him in these futile intrigues; and perhaps it will not be long before the Korean Emperor and people are in a position to note the difference between interested and disinterested friendship and advice. There is not sufficient evidence to warrant the allegation that Mr. HULBERT had anything to do with the sly deputation to the Hague Conference, but that gentleman has only himself to blame if he lies under grave suspicion. It is stated authoritatively that he proceeded to Europe some time ago with twenty thousand yen obtained from the Emperor, as an immediate result of which steps have been taken to protect the Korean privy purse from undesirable drains. There are plenty of men who would gladly go jaunting to Paris on any pretence with such handsome allowances as that, and Mr. HULBERT's luck would undoubtedly have evoked envious and emulators, if that avenue had not been so promptly closed. The private purse of His Majesty—as we must still call him, though the honorific sounds a mockery—is now controlled by a committee of which the Korean Minister of Commerce, SONG FONG-CHUN, is chairman. It seems not unfair at this juncture to suggest that men like Mr. HULBERT would not "love Korea so much, hated they not Japan more," and there was a gratuitous addition of impudence to the folly of this abortive deputation to the Hague in the preliminary visit of one of its members to the Russian Emperor. It was, however, all of a piece with the notorious Seoul intrigues of pre-Japanese days. Unrecognised and unheard by the Hague Conference, repudiated by their Emperor in a manner strongly reminiscent of the sneak-schoolboy's "Please sir, it wasn't me," these precious deputies are making their way to the United States, where it is to be feared the Yellow Press will be only too ready just now to listen to, garble, and repeat their complaints. The American Government, along with all the other Powers, has accepted accomplished facts, and acquiesced in the Convention of 1905, and it is to be hoped that Washington will therefore do its best to prevent any unnecessary mischief. Japan has a good deal of lurking as well as overt enmity to contend with, and Reuter's suggestion that Viscount HAYASHI has hastened to Korea "incognito" may not be as innocent in intention as it looks. Our own correspondent notified us of the Foreign Minister's departure, and mentioned its object as being open and understood. The Korean Emperor personally, it cannot be doubted, has put his foot in it, and he may yet regret his failure to fly at once to ask for the personal forgiveness of

his suzerain. If deposition should be his fate, we cannot see that the Korean people generally will be any worse off.

COLONIAL PAROCHIALISM.

(Daily Press, 19th July.)

No one who has watched the proceedings of the recent Colonial Conference can fail to be struck with the fact that they brought to light many difficulties, which had hardly, as yet, been taken into account in respect to the formation of an Imperial Council. Notwithstanding the many patriotic declarations and high flown post-prandial speeches it must have been evident to any unbiassed observer, that the majority of the Colonial Premiers showed themselves still a long way off anything like a real feeling of unity between themselves and the rest of the Empire. Each Colony waxed great on some particular matter which would be of special advantage to itself, and comparatively small interest was shown by any in the great questions which concern the whole Empire, and which are really those of the most importance. This was, however, only what might be naturally expected. There is a certain localism (if the word may be allowed) developed in the Colonies which is not easily got rid of by men belonging to them, and which it is especially difficult for Colonial Premiers to set aside. Mr. Chamberlain, when he was in South Africa, was sufficiently bold to tell the Colonists there plainly that he could not but regret to find them "very provincial." This expression does not exactly define what he was referring to but was a sufficiently near description of the sentiments which all Colonists entertain and which will constitute one of the greatest obstacles in the way of the formation of any Imperial Council or other Body who can act as a permanent adviser on Imperial Affairs. In point of fact the whole idea of an Empire is in a sense foreign to Colonial minds. The Colonies, not without some show of reason, are averse to regarding themselves merely as a part of one Great Empire, and as though they had no national existence of their own, and they habitually centre every question that arises upon their own particular Colony and estimate the importance of every measure not as it may affect the Empire as a whole, but as it may directly benefit themselves. It cannot be denied that the majority of the questions which were discussed, were approached very much in this spirit; and that while there was on the surface a very satisfactory show of fraternity and goodwill, an undercurrent of individuality on the part of different Colonies was at times somewhat noticeably apparent. It is worthy of note that coincident with the sitting of the Colonial Conference in London, a proposal was made in Australia to submit to the Home Government the question whether the Commonwealth might not have the right conceded to it of appointing its own Lieutenant Governors to the different Colonies. This shows how strongly the Colonists there are imbued with feeling of antagonism to anything like Central Authority at home and how much will have to be done before it will be possible to duly impress upon them the importance of the interests which each Colony has in common with all other dependencies and with the Empire as a whole.

It is much to be regretted that it was thought necessary to withhold full publicity to the discussions at the time when they took place—a course which was certainly remarkable on the part of a Government which boasts of its liberality in action as

well as in name. The true reason for this plan having been adopted is generally believed to be the fear which was entertained that the expressions of the Colonies in favour of the adoption of some system of preference would have been so marked as to probably be inconvenient to the present Administration who have set their faces so definitely against such a course. Whatever may have been the reason the fact that full publicity was delayed is undoubtedly to be regretted; and that an unfavourable idea of the results of the Conference was thus produced. Had an opposite course been produced many important questions would have been discussed as they arose at the Conference not only there but in the public Press, which have now only been partially dealt with and in this way the public both at home and in the Colonies would have become better prepared to meet at least some of the more important problems, which it is hoped to solve; and above all the chief difficulty that has to be met, namely the creation of a true *esprit de corps* between the Home Country and the Colonies. This is the essential element required in their joining together to meet common needs as members of a common Empire. As a tentative measure towards securing this end the Conference will no doubt be of value; but it is idle to ignore that so far as matters have gone, there has not been very much accomplished in this direction. If a permanent Imperial Council is to be established, it is evident that there should be a certain number of Home Representatives (quite apart from the Official element) upon it. By this means something of a *rapprochement* might be made between the Home and the Colonial views of the questions that arise; and there would be a better chance of such questions being discussed upon their broad merits, than can be the case in the absence of a fair representation not merely of official but of general Home opinion at the discussions. It is to be hoped that in future conferences, which will no doubt take place, this fact may not be lost sight of. There are always a large number of men to be found at home, some mercantile, others retired officials and the like, who are deeply interested in and thoroughly acquainted with the Colonies. Such persons are likely to look upon the questions that have to be dealt with in a manner which will have due regard to both Imperial and Colonial interests, and in this way the Conference can be made the means not only of securing that Colonial interests be duly considered by the Home Government, but the not less important end that Home and Imperial interests be equally considered and respected by the Colonies, and that both sides shall recognise that in a large number of important questions their interests are at one.

CHINA'S MAGNA CHARTA.

(Daily Press, 20th July.)

"All that makes existence valuable to anyone," remarked the late Mr. STUART MILL, "depends on the enforcement of restraints upon the actions of other people." In China, existence ought to be particularly precious, for there are few lands where individual actions are more under the restraint of law or of public opinion. One of the latest Decrees we have published is concerned with the restraining of individualism in matters of ceremonial, and most people know that the Chinese ideal is uniformity in nearly all things. That, however, was not exactly the idea in the mind of the English philosopher, and had

he been able to return and study the China of to-day, he would doubtless have suggested that existence would be more valuable to the average Chinaman if there could be a more effective restraint upon the actions of mandarindom. Theoretically, Chinese officialdom is under restraint, both of the Censorate, and of a peculiarly powerful public opinion, but in practice, as we have previously remarked, neither works very well. The Censorate itself is corrupt, and the general public has got so used to the presence of evil officials that it requires a very irksome specimen indeed to goad it to the adoption of old-fashioned protests—the old way, as sinologues have told us, being to drag the offender out and literally worry him to death. We have lately seen a new way, copied from the foreigner, by which the Governor of Anhwei was killed with the revolver of one who disapproved of his policy. If the native newspapers afford any criterion of the native public opinion, the people of China do take a genuine interest in this question of necessary restraint, and would be glad to have a voice in the establishment and enforcement thereof. When the Empress-Dowager unexpectedly announced her willingness to grant a Constitution and a Parliament, there was a good deal of rejoicing, which foreigners could not help regarding as premature. There is no lack of reasons why China should fall into line in this respect with Japan and other Powers, but there is the old, old reason why she won't. Or at least, so opined the foreigners aforesaid. The Chinese people as a whole were considered to be as yet unready for such a reform—and this was not a foreign argument, by the way, but the expressed belief of many officials and the barely concealed opinion of the Dowager-Empress herself. The people who are really least ready for it are the rank and file of mandarindom, and their unreadiness means unwillingness. That is why we are not greatly hopeful now, even after the Dowager-Empress has only this month advertised for suggestions from all over the Empire, suggestions as to the best and quickest method of establishing a workable Constitution. In face of this extra Edict of hers, it is perhaps a little unfair to liken her position to that of the Russian autocracy vis-à-vis the Duma. Her Majesty has done all she can at present to show sincerity, but we find it hard to believe in the real wholehearted advocacy of such a reform from that quarter. It looks very honest, certainly, that she should invite any of her Peking subjects, no matter how high or low this rank may be, to contribute suggestions, but their memorials have to reach her via the Censorate, so we know for certain that only such suggestions as meet the predilections of the Censors will get through. The same thing applies to advice from the Provinces, in which case a special stipulation is made that the provincial officials are not to forward any Utopian suggestions. That, of course, is tantamount to saying they need forward nothing of which they disapprove, and as there are many officials opposed to the innovation altogether, it is easy to imagine the short shrift that will be given to most of those who have ideas to submit as to ways and means of furthering the unwelcome project. A surer way would have been, if her idea was really to take anything like a plebiscite of the intelligents, to allow all to be sent direct to Peking, there to be sorted and edited by a committee. This Committee would have included such of her advisers as are really in favour of constitutional reform, and thus there would have been some chance of

fair play. As it is, we are not sanguine of any early development worth noting.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 16th instant in the Council Chamber at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B. A.C.D.

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C. McI. MESSER, (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Captain-Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 26 to 30, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following papers:—Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies with regard to Sir Matthew Nathan's departure; Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Colony for the year 1906; Report of the Inspector of Schools for the year 1906; Despatch from the Secretary of State regarding the Typhoon Relief Fund Committee; Correspondence on the subject of salaries of European Civil Servants.

CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARIES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to move the following resolution—"Resolved that the principle of the payment of salaries of European Civil Servants contained in Lord Elgin's despatch No. 122 of the 11th June, 1907, be approved."

I move this resolution, Sir, *pro forma*, leaving it to the unofficial members of the Council to express their opinions on the subject. The extra amount required for the first six months of this year will be about \$44,000. As regards the remainder of the year, and in fact for the whole year, the total amount has already been voted, as the estimates were taken at the rate of 2/-.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution which has just been proposed by the hon. gentleman opposite. The hon. Colonial Secretary said he proposed this *pro forma*, and I can quite appreciate his position inasmuch as it is a resolution dealing with salaries of members of the public service, of which service he is a member. The question arose eighteen months ago, and at one time it excited a good deal of comment both in the public press and in private conversation, and culminated in May last in a series of petitions being sent home to the Secretary of State regarding the unfortunate position of members of the Civil Service on account of the rise in value of the dollar, thus placing them all in a position to lose a number of dollars, while at the same time the cost of living and other expenses did not decrease in proportion to the rise in value of the dollar. Unfortunately the Secretary of State did not see fit in the first instance to grant their prayer, but as is seen in Despatch 12, dated 11th June, 1907, the Secretary of State, Lord Elgin, has at last consented, with the approval of this Council, to

a certain arrangement which, I am sure, will give to members of the Civil Service in this Colony adequate compensation for their losses. As I said, Sir, the subject was brought prominently before the public some time ago, and I must say that most members of this Council, and also the public, sympathised a very great deal with the members of the Civil Service, and we think an arrangement of this sort in fixing the dollar at 2/- is a fair settlement of the question. We feel, however, having regard to the increased value of the dollar, that, if there should be any loss, the Colony as a whole should bear it rather than the different members of the Civil Service. I go upon the principle, Sir, in supporting the resolution, that the Colony has a right to expect good and faithful service from its Civil Servants, and on their part they have a right to look to the Colony to give them an amount commensurate with their services, also to enable them to maintain their position in the Colony with some degree of comfort. I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution, and I am sure my unofficial colleagues will unanimously support it (applause).

HIS EXCELLENCY—I gather from the silence which has fallen on the Council after the remarks of the senior unofficial member that the hon. unofficial members are in favour of this resolution (applause). Members of the Government will, of course, not vote on the resolution, and all I can say is, that after this resolution is passed the Civil Servants will feel that they have been liberally treated in this matter, and I have not the slightest doubt that they will, one and all, properly appreciate that liberality (applause).

INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a bill entitled An Ordinance relating to Life, Fire, and Marine Insurance Companies.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FACILITIES FOR A FOREIGN COMPANY.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance for giving to a Foreign Company, called the Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij, certain facilities for carrying on its business in the Colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Council stands adjourned till this day week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council—the Colonial Secretary presiding. The following votes were passed:

EDUCATIONAL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five thousand five hundred Dollars (\$5,500) in aid of the vote, Education, Other Charges, Grants, Building Grants.

HARBOUR MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of one thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars (\$1,716) in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, Harbour Office—Special Expenditure, Purchase of 3 Fairway Lights and Buoys.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand nine hundred Dollars (\$1,900) in aid of the vote, Public Works, Recurrent Maintenance of Lighthouses.

JUDICIAL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two hundred and seventy-five Dollars (\$275) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, A.—Supreme Court, Other Charges, for the following items:

Electric Fans and Light	...	\$ 75
Incidental Expenses	...	20

Total \$275

PUBLIC CEMETERY.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of three hundred and fifty Dollars (\$350) in aid of the vote, Public Works, Recurrent Miscellaneous, Maintenance of Public Cemetery.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 15th July.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

[BEFORE THE FULL COURT.]

CHAN WO AND OTHERS V. CHAN YAM
AND OTHERS.

In this case the appellants (plaintiffs) were represented by Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), and the respondents (defendants) by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett).

The application was for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against a judgment delivered by the Puisne Judge. The petition for motion showed that on April 8th, 1904, the petitioners filed their statement of claim in this action, claiming that the sum of \$4,258 paid into Court, being part of a sum of \$12,000 which represented a debt due by the Wah Tai to the Wah Hing Lung firm, be paid to the petitioners as the assignees of the said debt under an assignment from the respondents as the partners retiring from the Wah Hing Lung firm. The respondents duly appeared on June 28th, and filed their statement of defence in which they denied the assignment of the said debt, and stating that they (the respondents) and the petitioner, Chan Wo, as the partners retiring from the Wah Hing Lung firm were entitled to the said debt due from the Wah Tai to the Wah Hing Lung, but that they were willing to make certain payments to the petitioner, Chan Wo. The action was heard before the Puisne Judge sitting in original Jurisdiction on November 28th, 1906, and on March 13th and 14th, 1907. On April 8th His Honour the Puisne Judge delivered judgment and pronounced a decree in the action whereby he directed that judgment be entered for respondents (defendants) with costs, finding *inter alia* that the said debt due by the Wah Tai firm to the Wah Hing Lung had not been assigned to the petitioners, but was the property of Chan Wo and the respondents as the old partners of the Wah Hing Lung. On July 1st and 2nd, the petitioners appealed to the Full Court from the said judgment, when their appeal was dismissed with costs and the judgment including the said finding was confirmed. The petitioners were precluded by the judgment of His Honour the Puisne Judge, and of the Full Court, from recovering from the respondents the sum of \$6,000 which also forms part of the Wah Tai debt of \$12,000, and from recovering the sum which is at issue in this action which latter sum amounts to only a few hundred dollars. The petitioners felt themselves aggrieved by the said judgment and decree, and were desirous of appealing therefrom to His Majesty in Privy Council. The said judgment and decree involved a sum or matter at issue, or a civil right, exceeding the value of £500. The petitioners sought leave to appeal, and asked that pending its execution of the said judgment and decree be suspended.

Mr. Pollock—We are moving formally this morning for the purpose of saving time, there being some doubt as to the construction of one of the Privy Council rules as to whether we would have to apply to the Court within fourteen days, or that the petition should be filed within fourteen days. I would ask your Lordships to fix a day.

The Puisne Judge—We'll fix a day when it suits us later on.

The Chief Justice—We'll fix it by agreement.

Mr. Pollock—I don't know whether you could give a ruling on the point as to whether a petition has to be filed within fourteen days, or whether the application has to be made to the Court within that time. It would be convenient if the practice could be settled.

The Chief Justice—We'll settle it.

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY V. FUNG
CHUN-YEN.

An appeal on the question of costs in this case was heard, the appellant being represented by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. D. V. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and

Deacon), and the respondent, the Building Authority, by Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Attorney General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell, Crown Solicitor.

Mr. Slade—As to the question whether or not costs can be given against the Building Authority, I am prepared to argue that the Building Authority is an authority against whom costs can be given. I find there is a case in which it was held that costs can be given against the Crown, because the Crown was given the right to appeal.

Mr. Slade then referred their Lordship to certain sections in the Magistrates' Ordinance, and to other authorities setting out the powers of the Full Court, in one of which it was shown that the Full Court might make such order as to costs as to the Court might see fit. Power was given the Crown to appeal, and the Crown, just as any other party, was bound by the words of the Ordinance. The law on the point was plain where the right and liability were conferred together, the Crown could not take the right without the liability.

The Chief Justice here intimated that the Court would hear the Attorney-General.

Mr. Gompertz—The Building Authority is the Crown—

The Chief Justice—You must assume that.

Mr. Gompertz—Yes, my Lord. Your Lordships are sitting as a Court of Appeal in a criminal case. The Code of Civil Procedure, of course, applies only to civil matters. The procedure here by way of appeal is not that I did down in the Code, but that laid down in the Magistrates' Ordinance. Forms are laid down in that Ordinance, and the chapter on appeal governs procedure and gives power to appeal. The invariable practice in this Court shows that costs have never been given against the Crown.

Mr. Slade—I don't know that my friend can say it has been the invariable practice.

Mr. Gompertz—I have no knowledge of costs being given for the Crown, but they have not been given against it. The rules here are that the Crown does not give or receive costs.

Mr. Slade—I submit that the Magistrates' Ordinance gives power to the Court to award costs against the Crown.

Their Lordships' decisions were reserved.

LONG KEE V. NG WAI.

An appeal was heard on the Chief Justice's decision regarding costs in the case in which Long Kee, of the firm of Messrs. Fook Wo Cheong, merchants, carrying on business at 39, Wing Lok Street, applied to set aside a deed of mortgage.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the appellant (plaintiff), the respondent being represented by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett).

Mr. Pollock first referred to the pleadings, remarking that in the statement of claim the owner of the property sought to have the mortgage set aside, delivered up, and a cancellation of the registration on the ground that the mortgage put on the register was not signed by him, or with his authority. The defendant then put in, not merely a statement of defence, but also a counterclaim, and in the former he put the plaintiff to prove his title as owner. Counsel quoted numerous authorities on the question of negligence, and as to what constituted a breach of duty, arguing that if the plaintiff chose, he could keep his title deeds in his own home in China, rather than in Hongkong.

After hearing Mr. Slade, the Court decided that the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Tuesday, July 16th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

EXTENDING AN INSURANCE COMPANY'S
BUSINESS.

In the matter of the Man On Insurance Co., Ltd., the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), renewed the application for the confirmation by the Court of certain resolutions which had been passed with a view to extending the Company's business.

Mr. Pollock stated that since the matter was last before the Court they had complied with his Lordship's desire that certain additional information should be put on the record with reference to the financial position of the Man On Insurance Company, and setting forth its assets and liabilities. Certain affidavits, compiled by the manager of the Company, Mr. R. F. C. Master and Mr. Kwong Tong-kwok, a director, had been filed. If those affidavits satisfied his Lordship he would ask him to make an order approving of them. A formal order would be submitted for the approval of the Court. Mr. Pollock further asked his Lordship to make an order that costs should be taxed and paid by the Insurance Company as between solicitor and client.

His Lordship—I grant this application now that the further information has been supplied me. It is a matter which concerns the public, and, therefore, I will give my reasons for granting it. In the first place, when the application was made, I was under the impression that the share capital was not sufficient, but information has now been supplied to me that a great number of Chinese marine insurance companies, which are also in the fire business have a capital practically the same as this, namely, \$1,000,000 half paid up. It is a matter which the Court must inquire into carefully because experience has shown that, in the event of the winding up of a company, there is always very great difficulty with regard to absent shareholders. Therefore, I required special information with regard to resident shareholders in this Company, and I find that out of 5,000 shares, all with the exception of 325, are held by shareholders in Hongkong. That appears to me, so far as the Court can investigate it, sufficient guarantee that, in the event of the capital being called up, there will be no difficulty. The Company has supplied the information the Court required, therefore I grant the application.

Mr. Pollock—I take it your Lordship will not require any further advertisements?

His Lordship—I think not.

Wednesday, July 17th.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A CARELESS BORROWER.

Ma Cheung-chau brought action against Leung Kwan-sing to recover \$656.10, being principal and interest due on a promissory note.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) for the defendant.

The plaintiff was called, and stated that the defendant borrowed \$600 from him on December 20th, 1906, for which he signed a promissory note.

In cross-examination plaintiff stated that he saw defendant write the note, and paid him the money personally.

Defendant stated that on December 18th he asked his cousin, Kwok Chik-sing, whether he could procure him a loan of \$600. The cousin said he knew a man who would accommodate the loan, but as this man, the plaintiff, wanted 30 per cent. interest, he would not give him the promissory note. He left the signed note with his cousin, however, in order that he might raise the loan from somebody else.

His Lordship—This man is a past master in the art of promissory notes.

Mr. Goldring—I don't know about being a past master, but he has foolishly let a whole lot go floating about the Colony.

His Lordship—What about his sister?

Mr. Goldring—I don't know about her. Defendant is a foolish young man although he has had experience before, but this note was signed prior to the other two.

His Lordship—Judgment and costs for plaintiff.

AN EXACTING TENANT.

J. X. Botelho sued C. S. Remedios claiming possession of part of the ground floor of 29 Mosque Street, which was illegally occupied by the defendant.

Plaintiff appeared in person, and Mr. Goldring represented the defendant.

His Lordship (to plaintiff)—How does the ground floor belong to you?—I rented it from

the defendant for \$10 a month, and have been there since December.

Have you paid your rent ever since?—Yes, with the exception of this month.

What is it you complain of?—The defendant keeps his servant and a lot of articles on the ground floor under the stairs.

Has he no right to do that?—No, I have taken the whole ground floor.

When you took it did you agree to let him have the place under the staircase?—I agreed, and he took it with my consent.

And does he use the passage with your consent?—He does.

His Lordship—I suppose he couldn't get in and out without it?

Mr. Goldring—No, my Lord. That is what I am coming to. Continuing, the solicitor asked—Do you claim exclusive right to the kitchen and bathroom?—I claim the whole of the ground floor.

His Lordship—Have you the power to turn him out of the kitchen and the bathroom?—I think I have the right.

Mr. Goldring—The quarrel arose over a small child sleeping there?—Yes, it was the amah's child.

His Lordship—Why did you let a child sleep there when it had nothing to do with you?—When I took the house I said it could sleep under the stairs.

Mr. Goldring—Is it not a fact that on the 4th July you gave a month's notice to quit?—Yes.

His Lordship—Then they may have friction for nearly eight weeks yet.

Mr. Goldring—But the defendant can go whenever he likes.

His Lordship—Won't you go?—Well, my Lord, I have given them notice to go, but I won't go at present.

His Lordship non-suited the case with costs.

Thursday, July 18th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED MURDER.

Kaiser Singh, Rooda Singh, Maher Singh and Sorain Singh were arraigned on the charge of murder.

Hon. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Attorney General, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, Mr. G. E. Morrell, prosecuted, and the prisoners were defended by Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist).

Prisoners pleaded not guilty and the following jury was empanelled:—A. Course (foreman), S. S. Levy, T. Arnott, E. A. Long, I. S. Gibson, D. Tolland and W. McIntyre.

The Attorney General stated that deceased was employed as a watchman at 4, Hing Lung Lane, West Point. On the morning of May 16th, a man named Hakka Singh went to the deceased's brother and gave him certain information. Then the two men went together to West Point, and finding the gate leading to deceased's quarters locked, one of the men climbed over and entered his quarters. In consequence of what he saw he reported the matter to the West Point police, and Sergeant Gordon visited the quarters. He found the body of deceased bearing a number of wounds and he found the man's box broken open and the contents scattered about the place. The brother of the deceased would say that deceased kept his money in the box which was broken open. No money was found in the box and the deceased Mela had about \$400. Another witness would say that on the day before the murder the first, second and fourth defendants went to the Hongkong Dispensary where they saw him. The fourth defendant called him across the road and asked him whether the deceased had sent any money to India. On the night when the defendants assembled before deceased's house the third prisoner opened the gate and the first, second and fourth entered. Witnesses would say that they heard the defendants talking to deceased. Shortly afterwards they heard a cry and fifteen minutes later the defendants came out and climbed over the gate. The first defendant carried a chopper and the second a knife, and there were bloodstains on both men's

clothes. The first said to the fourth, who was waiting outside, "Let us go now; we have done the work." The principal evidence was undoubtedly that of the two men who, were, to a certain extent, accomplices in the crime.

Case adjourned.

Friday, July 19th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE INDIAN MURDER: PRISONERS SENTENCED TO DEATH.

The hearing of the trial of Kaiser Singh, Rooda Singh, Maher Singh and Sorain Singh for the murder of an Indian named Mela at Hing Lung Lane, West Point, on May 15th, was concluded.

Hon. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Attorney-General, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, Mr. G. E. Morrell, prosecuted, and the prisoners were defended by Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist).

Prisoners pleaded not guilty and the following jury was empanelled:—A. Course (foreman), S. S. Levy, T. Arnott, E. A. Long, I. S. Gibson, D. Tolland and W. McIntyre.

The case for the Crown having closed, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, in addressing the jury on behalf of the prisoners, contended that there was no evidence except that of the two accomplices, on their own showing they were accomplices. Unless the jury believed that from the beginning they did not know what was contemplated they were accomplices, otherwise they were accessories after the fact. One of the witnesses knew the deceased from the time he arrived in the Colony—knew all about him, how much money he had—and he says he was sent for to ascertain what money had been sent away by the deceased, and what money he had here. He said he was forced into it and did not know that they were about to do anything wrong. The two witnesses were charged at the Police Court but the case against them was withdrawn simply because their evidence was required to convict others. It was extremely dangerous to take the evidence of these men without corroboration. No one would be safe if such evidence was accepted; anyone who committed a crime might come forward and blame someone else. Further, their evidence was contradictory and Counsel submitted that the jury must not accept the unsupported testimony of accessories, men who had turned against their comrades to save their own necks.

The Attorney General began by alluding to the law regarding accessories, when His Lordship interrupted—These men are not put forward as King's evidence?

The Attorney-General—They have not received formal pardons, but the charges against them have been withdrawn.

His Lordship—You introduce them merely as accomplices?

The Attorney-General—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—They are no King's evidence?

The Attorney-General—They have not received formal pardon, but they are perfectly safe. I submit they know perfectly well that the British Government does not lure a man on to give evidence against himself and then charge him. Proceeding, the Attorney-General informed the jury that the murder was committed on a dark and squally night in a most obscure spot. That being so, it was impossible that anyone should be brought to justice for a crime of this sort without the evidence of accomplices, therefore it would be impossible to prosecute any persons who would come forward and give evidence. It was the duty of the jury to weigh the case and consider whether there was corroborative evidence.

His Lordship, in summing up, explained that, owing to the noise of the fans he did not quite catch the addresses of Counsel, and therefore did not hear the Attorney-General was going to introduce his two chief witnesses as accomplices. To the jury he explained that King's evidence was where a prisoner, a man charged, turned round and confessed his guilt, his participation in the crime. Then the Crown, for very obvious public reasons would accept his evidence and grant him a free pardon. The

reason why that practice is adopted is in order that the Crown may get true facts of the case which it submits to the jury. This was not a case of King's evidence at all, and if this was the practice adopted in the Colony, the sooner it was dropped the better. His Lordship did not cast any reflection on the Attorney-General because a serious crime must be put before the jury with what evidence could be got. Here the Crown came before the Court with two witnesses who were put in the box as cred table witnesses. They had confessed the crime, but the jury might or might not, believe their story. An extraordinary thing in the story was how the fourth man told one of them after the murder to go home and tell the first Indian he met. The jury, when dealing with the question of accomplices must deal with their evidence. It was no use saying—"This is the evidence of accomplices; how can I corroborate it?" They should first find out whether there was anything to corroborate. If they could not accept that evidence as true so far as it went, there was nothing to corroborate it. His Lordship then reviewed the evidence, and asked the jury to consider their verdict.

The jury retired, and on returning into Court brought in a verdict of guilty against all four prisoners.

His Lordship then donned the black cap, and passed sentence of death on each.

CONSPIRING TO CHEAT AND DEFRAUD.

Li Leung was indicted on the charge of conspiring to cheat and defraud.

The Attorney-General, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. D. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the defendant and pleaded guilty on his behalf.

The Attorney-General—Under section 5 of the Misdemeanors Ordinance the prisoner is liable to imprisonment for three years with hard labor.

His Lordship—Do you know the facts of the case?

The Attorney-General—Yes, my Lord, I am fully in your hands.

Mr. Slade—This young man cannot be considered in any way a hardened criminal, and I would ask your Lordship to deal as leniently as possible with him. The whole facts connected with his career must be in your Lordship's recollection, having been related to your Lordship in two civil actions which came before the Court. It appears that he is the son of most respectable parents. His father is dead, but his mother is still living. His mother, your Lordship has seen, and you must appreciate you self that she is a woman of good character. He is a married man, this youngster, with a wife and, I believe, one child. Until some two years ago he lived with his mother in the family house at Canton. Then he was sent here for the purpose of learning English. He had a fair Chinese education, and he came to add to it by learning English. While here he made some undesirable friends, and by their inducement was led into a life of debasement, and for the purpose of satisfying his desires was induced to raise money in various ways. Whilst here he learned for the first time that there was a certain property standing in his own name which had been given by his father to him while he was still an infant, earning this, though he was still under the age of twenty-one, he raised money on it, declaring himself to be over twenty-one. His mother heard of this and came down to seek him in Hongkong. It was obvious he knew that he had done wrong, and was very much afraid of his mother and of what she might say to him. When she came here he left the shop where he was living, and hid himself. It would appear that his one great desire at that time was to keep out of the way of his own mother; he wanted to get away from Hongkong altogether so as to avoid her, but he had not sufficient money. In these circumstances his friends—his false friends—came to him, and said if he would identify a certain person as his brother Li Fook, they would give him \$2,000 or thereabouts, and under the pressure I have described he very wrongly consented to do this. That he knew all he was doing, I think, it was extremely doubtful. He is not a youngster of great intellect, and he was in the hands of men older and more astute than

himself and, therefore, he yielded to represent this man Li Fuk-cheong to be his brother, and they paid him \$2,000. He remained at large though a warrant was out for his arrest very shortly after the occurrence, until May 3rd. During most of that time he was in Hongkong living the life of a hunted criminal. He has been in jail since May 31st, and may I suggest to your Lordship that this is not a case where an exemplary punishment is needed to protect society from a designing criminal, but that you have to undertake the difficult task of apportioning the punishment this man ought to suffer—punishment sufficient to act as a deterrent, and to help him in future to lead a respectable life. I would ask your Lordship to be as merciful as you can.

His Lordship—I have considered this case and know all the facts of it. The offence is one which under ordinary circumstances would be visited with a very severe penalty, indeed, five or seven years' penal servitude. In the circumstances of this case I cannot possibly let the prisoner off. He must pay some penalty for the partly stupid and partly criminal act in which he has taken part, and, I think, twelve months' imprisonment without hard labour will meet the exigencies of the case.

DISOBEYING AN ORDER OF BANISHMENT.

Wong Kam, alias Lo Chan, was indicted on the charge of disobeying a banishment order. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were called: L. A. Rose, A. Bain, L. A. Muso, B. Laurenz, P. M. N. da Silva and E. Gamblen.

Detective George Watt gave evidence as to identifying the defendant as a man who had returned from banishment by the taking of his finger prints. He also produced his photograph taken on the day before his banishment, and detailed the various marks which were on the prisoner's person.

The jury, after examination, found the prisoner guilty, and his Lordship sentenced him to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A PROMISSORY NOTE CLAIM.

Mok Yan-to of the Mok Yan firm sued Tang In to recover \$240 due on a promissory note. Defendant denied liability.

His Lordship—Did you sign that paper (note produced)?—Yes, there's no mistake about it, but Yan-to is responsible.

His Lordship—Why shouldn't you be responsible for a document you signed?—Because I was the manager at the time.

His Lordship—You'd better pay then! Judgment and costs for plaintiff.

SUIT FOR RENT.

Sit Leung-kit v. the Yam Lee firm was a claim for \$40 due for rent.

Plaintiff said he was the landlord of the ground floor of 20, Battery street, Yaumati, of which floor the defendant was tenant at a rent of \$8 per month. He was claiming five months' rent, and always gave rent receipts when he was paid.

His Lordship (to defendant)—Produce your rent receipts.

Defendant produced rent receipts for 31, Elgin Road. He said he was never a tenant of plaintiff's.

His Lordship asked plaintiff if he had any witnesses, and plaintiff called a small boy named Tam Poon-chi.

Tam was placed in the box and said he was 18 years of age.

His Lordship—How old were you when you were before me the other day?—I was before your Lordship last year, and was then 17.

His Lordship—What do you do, that you are brought forward as a witness?—I am a rent collector.

His Lordship—Take him out of the box. It is not likely that anyone would pay rent to a boy like that.

Plaintiff—He is not exactly my rent collector, but he goes and tells my tenants to pay up.

His Lordship—He said he was the rent collector. The case is adjourned till next Friday. (To the interpreter.) Tell the plaintiff it is no use bringing that little boy he has a witness. I won't have him. He will be 25 next week; seems to age ten years a week.

CIVIL SERVANTS SALARIES.

The correspondence on the subject of the salaries of European civil servants was laid before the Legislative Council yesterday.

Sir Matthew Nathan, in his despatch of 13th July, 1906, pointed out that the strongest argument against payment of sterling or exchange compensation salaries at any rate other than the current one is that by the agreements which officers have expressly or impliedly entered into they have no legal claim to any other rate. Against this however must be set the fact that it is impossible to expect a satisfied Civil Service in which the spending power of officers' salaries is constantly being reduced through no fault of their own and that with a dissatisfied Civil Service the work of the Colony is not likely to be efficiently performed, while new recruits of the desired stamp will be deterred from joining by the complaints of those who are constantly realizing with greater resentment the unfavourable conditions under which they are now serving. The fact that the Colony raises its revenue and frames its estimate of expenditure in dollars and so apparently saves at the expense of its servants when the dollar goes above the rate of exchange at which the annual estimates are made, adds to the dissatisfaction arising from the present condition of affairs.

His Excellency submitted several schemes the most important of which and the one which he favoured most was the third. It was as follows:

"A third scheme would be to fix upon some rate, and if the dollar goes above it, to pay the dollar equivalent at that rate, and if it goes below it, to pay at the average rate of the preceding month. If, for instance, a 2- rate is fixed upon then when the dollar is above 2, officers drawing sterling salaries would receive 10 dollars to the £, and if below 2—some greater number according to the exchange of the previous month. 2- would be an arbitrary, but convenient, rate to fix. It is considerably higher than the rate current at the time of the sterling salaries by Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of the 13th June, 1906, but since that date officers have on the whole gained by the low exchange, and they would again profit if the gold value of silver fell, while they would not lose if it rose. The practical effect of this scheme, if carried out, would be to convert sterling salaries into dollar salaries for local payments, if the dollar value rose above 2-."

Then comes the important letter of March 8th, 1907, in which Sir Matthew writes:

My Lord,—In accordance with paragraph No. 222 of the Rules and Regulations of H. M.'s Colonial Service, I have the honour to transmit copies of two memorials on the subject of the salaries of officers of this Government in relation to the exchange value of the gold or gold equivalent in which they are paid. The first memorial, addressed to me for transmission to Your Lordship is signed by Sir F. T. Pigott, Chief Justice, by Sir H. S. Berkeley, who has since resigned from the Colonial Service, and by Mr. S. T. Dunn, Superintendent of the Botanical and Forestry Department. It purports also to present the views of Mr. H. R. Phillips, the Local Auditor and of the late Harbour Master. The second memorial also addressed to me for similar transmission in the event of my being satisfied of the general correctness of the figures it contains, signed by the remaining heads of departments with the exception of the Colonial Secretary and of the Director of the Observatory, who is about to retire from the Service; it is also signed by the assistant hands in some of the principal offices. In forwarding it Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Acting Attorney General, stated that no names of officers in posts below the 2nd class had been appended to it because it was thought undesirable to multiply signatures but that the signatories claimed to speak for all ranks of the Government Service.

*I also forward in duplicate a letter on the same subject addressed to Your Lordship by Mr. A. G. Wise, Puisne Judge, who gives his reasons for not signing either of the memorials referred to above.

I further transmit a copy of a petition addressed to me through the Colonial Secretary with minor alterations to make it applicable to different departments, has been

signed by practically all the European Officers of the Medical, Sanitary and Public Works Departments. Slightly different petitions, of which copies are annexed, have been submitted by the Masters of Queen's College, by the European members of the Harbour and Prison Departments, and by the European contingent of the Police Force.

Two letters, one dated the 24th December and the other the 26th February, both forwarded at the request of Sir Francis Pigott form the last enclosures to this despatch.

2. It will be seen that except in the Post Office and in the Education Department, whose members have recently received increases in salary, the complaint of the insufficiency of emoluments in the existing circumstances of exchange is universal throughout the European officers of the Hongkong Government.

3. The first of the memorials referred to above embodies some inaccuracies. Experience has not shown that "the dollar has risen more than 6d in 18 months" nor that "the utmost concession a few tradesmen have made is a reduction of 5 per cent. in their prices". The sterling equivalent of the dollar has not been below 1.10 since the 11th October, 1904, and has never risen to 2.4. Several important firms have reduced their prices between 10 and 20 per cent. since that date. The statement that "so far as European tradesmen are concerned the price of goods has for long been at the rate of one dollar to one shilling charged in England" is not applicable to all goods nor is it correct to lay down that customs duties in other Colonies "at most add 10 per cent. to the price." Though \$2.00 a month may be the mean rent of a house on the Peak of officials in the position of the signatories of the first memorial (of whom one however is provided with Government quarters) it is certainly not the average rent of houses occupied by Government officers. The statement that "landlords do not find house property a profitable investment" put forward to show that "it is hardly possible to anticipate any reduction of rent" is incredible; I am informed also that there has during the last year been a tendency of rents of houses in the Peak and Upper Levels of Victoria to fall slightly. The statement that servants' wages are "roughly no less than \$100 a month, including 4 chair coolies" does certainly not apply, as it is said to do, to "all classes of officers." Subordinate officers do not keep 4 chair coolies and conveyance allowance of \$15 to \$40 is given to officers whose duties require them to make use of rickshas or chairs.

In spite of these inaccuracies, which it has been my duty to point out, there is much in the memorial worthy of Your Lordship's consideration and I would draw special attention to its 11th paragraph.

4. The second memorial puts the case of officers on the whole moderately and correctly, except that in my opinion Table A which is intended to show that a head of a junior department requires to live reasonably \$9,924 or, say at \$9 to the £, £1,100 per annum, and a junior officer \$4,290, or say £475 per annum does, as seems to have been anticipated by the memorialists in para. 8 of the document, prove somewhat too much. But I am satisfied as to the general accuracy of the statements and figures in Tables B and C, and that it is not overstating the case to say that the cost in dollars of those items of living which are paid for on a silver basis has gone up at least 20 per cent. since 1902 when the Sterling Salary Scheme was introduced and during which year the average gold value of the dollar was 1/8. A factor which has undoubtedly contributed to this rise is the increasing wealth of the community, as evidenced by the growth in the revenue of the Colony, from \$4,901,074 in 1902 to an amount estimated at \$6,448,25 for 1907, a fresh taxation having been imposed to account for this increase of about 30 per cent.

5. The remaining petitions call for little comment. That submitted by the Medical Department does not gain force, by being signed by the entire staff of nursing sisters to whom much that is contained in it does not apply. Though the Police are undoubtedly prejudicially affected by receiving a smaller number of dollars now than they did formerly, it must be borne in mind that they get considerable extra allowances and free quarters, fuel, light, uniform and passages home and out again

for themselves and families; they are thus better off than other European public officers in the Colony.

6. From a consideration of the memorials and petitions and of such other information bearing on the matter as I have been able to collect I have come to the conclusion that the case for the memorialists and petitioners can succinctly and fairly be put in the following terms:—

In the last five years the number of dollars received on account of sterling and exchange compensation salaries has been reduced 25 per cent. In the same time dollar payments which make up about 4rds of the expenditure of senior and somewhat more of the junior officers have increased by rise of prices at least 20 per cent. while sterling payments which account for less of the total have decreased by not more than 10 per cent.

7. The purchasing power of an official's sterling salary according to the above statement is in 1907:— $\frac{2}{5}$ by $\frac{4}{5}$ plus $\frac{1}{5}$ plus $\frac{11}{10}$ or 67.5 per cent. of what it was in 1902.

Neglecting rise in prices for local produce and labour as being probably independent in its cause of the alteration in the gold value of the dollar the proportion of purchasing power of sterling salaries in 1907 to what it was in 1902 resulting solely from this alteration is $\frac{2}{5}$ ($\frac{1}{5}$ plus $\frac{1}{5}$ by $\frac{11}{10}$) or 77.5 per cent.

On similar lines the proportion of the purchasing power of sterling salaries in March 1907 to what it was in November 1905 is due solely to the alteration in the value of the dollar from $\frac{1}{10}$ th to $\frac{1}{9}$ th of a £ is less than $\frac{9}{10}$ ($\frac{2}{3}$ plus $\frac{1}{3}$ by $\frac{11}{10}$) or 93 per cent.

8. From whatever point of view these figures are considered it cannot be questioned that there has been a heavy fall in the purchasing power of sterling salaries in the last few years and it could scarcely be expected that this fall should be without its effect on the efficiency of the Service generally. Apart from general dissatisfaction several cases have already occurred in which good men have been lost to the Colony by the unattractiveness of the present outlook.

9. Since the memorials above discussed were submitted, I have received despatch No. 236 of the 26th November, 1906, in the 4th paragraph of which Your Lordship regrets being unable to reconsider the decision that measures of relief were unjustifiable and unnecessary at the present time and goes on to state that "in any case the fact that in spite of economy of Public Works the estimated revenue for 1907 barely covers the estimated expenditure is sufficient reason against any general increase in salaries." In this connection I would point out that the Estimates were drawn up on the basis of a 2/- dollar and that the current rate is now over 2s. 2½d. so that unless this rate falls appreciably or compensation is given for its high level, the amount that will be expended on sterling salaries in the year will fall considerably short of the estimate.

10. Subsequent to the above quoted despatch I understand that Your Lordship on the 8th January last asked of the Governor of the Straits Settlements what solution of the salaries question would be applicable to Hongkong as well as to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. Sir John Anderson has been good enough to favour me with a copy of the despatch he wrote in reply—No. 6) dated the 31st January, 1907,—the 11th paragraph of which suggests that salaries in Hongkong should be paid at the rate of the day so long as it does not exceed 2/2 and that if the rate exceeds 2/2 the salary should have a percentage added to it equivalent to 1/48th of the excess of the rate over 2/2.

For simplicity it is suggested that in place of the above an additional cent should be given on every dollar for every ½d. that the dollar rises above 2/-. With nine dollars to the pound sterling, or the dollar at rather more than 2/2½d. as at present, Sir John Anderson's scheme would mean an immediate addition of 5 per cent to salaries. This would not remove present grounds of complaint.

11. A more acceptable scheme would be if an additional cent were given on every dollar for every ½d. that the dollar rises above 2/-. With the dollar at 2/2½ the addition would then be 10 per cent. If it went to 2/6 the addition would be 24 per cent which might be laid down as a maximum instead of the 12 per cent suggested by Sir John Anderson.

The actual effect of the scheme is practically to pay salaries at a fictitious rate of 2/- to the dollar. On the whole the scheme suggested in paragraph 7 of my confidential despatch of the 13th July, 1906, appears simpler.

12. I regret the delay, due to my recent illness and absence and to the complicated nature of the question, in forwarding the memorials and petitions submitted to me in October and November of last year, and I would urge on Your Lordship the necessity for some early action being taken in the matter with which they deal.

The reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies is appended:

Downing Street,
28th March, 1907.

Sir,—With reference to paragraph 4 of my despatch No. 236 of November 26th last, I have the honour to inform you that I have now given further consideration to the question of the effect of the increased exchange value of the dollar on the emoluments of those officers of the Government service, whose salaries are fixed in sterling or, being paid at the rate of 3/- to the dollar, are practically on a sterling basis.

2. As you are aware, I have previously not seen my way to allow any concession on this account, mainly on the ground that, if exchange continues to rule high a reduction in local prices must presumably be only a matter of time.

I understand, however, that the adjustment of prices, which might be expected, has not yet taken place and, in the circumstances, I am willing to modify my previous opinion and to consent to some additional payment, as a temporary measure to officers paid on a sterling basis, who under present conditions find it difficult to live with fair comfort on their salaries.

3. I would, therefore, propose that, if you and the Legislative Council agree, a local allowance should be paid to these officers (within the limitations mentioned hereafter) for three years from January 1st, 1907, subject to the following conditions:—

The allowance will be at the rate of 5 per cent per annum on the officer's salary, so long as the exchange value of the dollar is 2½d. or more.

If the dollar rises to 2½d. or more the allowance will be at the rate of 10 per cent. If the dollar falls below 2½d. no allowance will be paid.

These allowances will not be pensionable and will not be paid while an officer is on leave of absence.

4. As at present advised, I am not satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for granting these allowances to officers whose salaries exceed £1,000 a year. It can scarcely be argued that such officers find it difficult to live with fair comfort on their salaries, and it must be remembered that their local expenditure (which alone is affected by the rise in the exchange value of the dollar) is less in proportion to their income than that of less highly paid officers. If, however, you take a different view, I shall be glad to receive, and consider, your observations on the point and in the meantime I will defer coming to a final decision upon it. I may add that, if the limit of £1,000 is finally adopted, in the case of officers whose salaries are nominally fixed in dollars, payable at 3s., the salary should be regarded as exceeding £1,000 if the sterling salary attached to the post is more than that sum.

5. Shortly before the end of the period of three years, to which I have proposed to limit the grant of the allowance, I shall expect to receive a full report on the cost of living and on market prices in Hongkong showing how far local prices have adjusted themselves to the enhanced sterling value of the dollar, supposing the rate of exchange still to be high. On the receipt of this report, the question of continuing the local allowance will be reconsidered, but it must be understood that it will not be renewed unless the step can be justified by reference to the local conditions obtaining at the time.—I have, c.,

ELGIN.

Governor Sir M. Nathan, K.C.M.G.,
Then followed this correspondence:

1st May, 1907.

Officer Administering the Government
to Secretary of State.

Your despatch No. 57 of 28th March. The allowance offered would not satisfy the Service

and I propose to suspend action until I shall have received a reply to Sir M. Nathan's despatch No. 37 of the 8th March.

Downing Street,
16th April, 1907.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 73 of the 8th of March forwarding memorials of Government officers with regard to the salaries of the Hongkong Service as affected by the high exchange value of the dollar.

2. I propose to defer replying to your despatch until I have had the opportunity of discussing the matter with you on your arrival here.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN.

Governor Sir M. Nathan, K.C.M.G.

Downing Street,
11th June, 1907.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 1st of May, in which you informed me that the proposals made in my despatch No. 57 of the 28th of March for the grant of a local allowance would not satisfy the service, and added that you proposed to defer action in anticipation of my reply to the Governor's despatch No. 37 of the 8th of March. I had already replied to that despatch to the effect that I would discuss the matter with Sir M. Nathan on his arrival in this country.

2. I have now ascertained Sir M. Nathan's views, and, subject to the consent of the Legislative Council, I am prepared to approve the following arrangement:—

Officers drawing sterling salaries, or dollar salaries with double exchange compensation, will be paid their salaries, when in the Colony, at the rate of 2/- to the dollar, so long as the exchange value of the dollar is at or above that figure.

When the exchange value of the dollar is below 2/- these salaries will be paid, as at present, at a rate of exchange fixed monthly by the Government and based on the average exchange value of the dollar during the preceding month.

Officers whose salaries are fixed in sterling will draw leave pay and pension on the basis of the fixed sterling salary.

Officers drawing double exchange compensation will continue to draw leave pay and pension on the basis of their nominal dollar salaries at the privileged rates of exchange to which they are entitled.

3. I have, therefore, to request that you will place these proposals before the Legislative Council. If the Council approves the suggested arrangement, you are authorised to put it in force at once with effect from the 1st of January last.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of
Hongkong.

The memorials sent by the various departments in the Civil Service, relative to their pleas for a change in the system on which salaries were paid, afford interesting reading, and show how justified were Sir Matthew Nathan's remarks that they were somewhat exaggerated.

The memorial signed by Sir Francis Pigott, Sir Henry Berkeley and Mr. S. P. Dunn states that Hongkong is, probably, the dearest Crown Colony in the Empire, and this even with the dollar at 1/8. There are many things which tend to make it so:—the expenses of living are far higher than in any other Colony and they are enormously increased by many causes: the chief of which is the rapid deterioration owing to the climate of clothes, books and stores. So far as European tradesmen are concerned the price of goods has for long been at the rate of one dollar to one shilling charged in England, and there is no sign of any alteration being made in this respect. This excessive scale of profit is accounted for in part by high rents and rapid deterioration of goods. It compares unfavourably with prices in other Colonies within our experience: even where customs duties are charged, which at most add 10 per cent to the price. High rent is the keynote of the situation, and it is certain that if

rents are high everything else will be high in proportion. The considerable rise in wages paid to Chinese servants is in fact partly due to the enhanced rents which they themselves have to pay for their families. It is, we think, advisable that the Secretary of State should realize what rents are paid in the Colony. Rents for medium-sized houses, decently situated, vary between \$180 to \$250 a month. Considering this from the point of view of sterling, with the dollar at 1/8: taking a mean rent of \$200 a month (apart from rates), the rent is £16.13.4 a month or £200 per annum. With the dollar at 2/2½ (the rate at which salaries were paid this month) the rent is £22.1.8 a month or £265 per annum. Considering the question from the silver point of view with the dollar at 1/8, the mean salary including exchange compensation of first class appointments may be put at \$1,000 a month; but with the dollar at 2/2½ such a salary is reduced to \$755 a month. It will thus be seen that rents in Hongkong are higher than those paid in England; and far exceed the recognised proportion which rent should bear to income. But putting this on one side, whichever way it is looked at either the increasing sterling rent, or the diminishing currency salary, the question of house rent is not merely the principal item of expenditure affected by the exchange, but is such an important one that even if it stood alone it would, we respectfully submit, be sufficient warrant for the relief which we seek. In the case of second class appointments, the item for rent can hardly be diminished, and it therefore bears a disastrous proportion to the officers' salaries. It is hardly possible to anticipate any reduction of rent, for the cost of building and of continuous repairs is such that even at the present high rents landlords do not find house property a profitable investment. Similarly with regard to the rates: the monthly rate for a house rented at \$200 is \$26—this at 1/8 in sterling is £2 3s. 4d at 2/2½ it is £2 17s. 5d. The Government has not reduced the dollar value of the rates in consequence of the high rate of exchange, nor would it be possible for it to do so. There are a number of smaller items the charges in respect of which always remain constant, and are not affected by the rate of the dollar; such as, doctors' charges, servants' wages, coolie hire, gas, tram ticket, chair hire. In all these, and some others of a similar nature, the actual cost as expressed in £ s. d. has risen owing to the rise in the dollar, e.g., the quarterly tram ticket on the tram line is \$30: this at 1/8 is sterling £2.10s. at 2/2½ it is £3 6s. 3d.: or to take so domestic a matter as the price of coals (as important an item in housekeeping as it is in England) the coolie hire alone for carrying up a ton of coals to the Peak is \$4—this at 1/8 is in sterling 6s. 8d., at 2/2½ is 8s. 10d. The wages of a Chinese boy less than 10 years ago was \$12 a month: at the rate of exchange then ruling, this represented sterling at 2/4, £1.4s. The wages now are \$16 a month, or at 2/2½, £1.15s. 4d. All other wages have risen in proportion. Further, the tendency in every item in which the Chinese are concerned is to rise in price irrespective of the value of the dollar. The Chinese servants are perpetually struggling for an advance of wages, and in the too frequent case of change of servants it is only with the greatest difficulty that new servants can be engaged at the rate paid to their predecessors. Wages are an important item being roughly not less than \$100 a month, including 4 chair coolies, for all classes of officers. There can be little doubt that the smaller items alluded to above together make a monthly total equivalent in amount to the rent. The statements which we have made as to the cost of living will, we are confident, be borne out by the Unofficial Members of the Council, and also by any of the numerous old residents of Hongkong now in England, should the Secretary of State be pleased to consult them. The Secretary of State has pointed out that in the matter of remittances the Civil Servants are no longer affected by the rate of exchange. This is undoubtedly true; but on the other hand we would point out, first, that there are many officers who are permanent residents of the Colony, whose remittances home are necessarily far more limited than those whose home is in England:

and secondly, that with regard to all officers, the large reduction in salaries has considerably reduced the amount available for remittances; or to take the converse case, where the amount remitted is, as it often must be, a constant quantity, the amount available for living in the Colony is in its turn constantly diminishing. In urging the Secretary of State to re-consider his decision we greatly rely on the action which the Colonial Office has sanctioned in the past to redress similar hardships. On four separate occasions, owing to the fluctuation of the dollar the Secretary of State has sanctioned the grant of relief by the Government to its officers. The change from silver to sterling was made with a similar object in view. We submit with respect and confidence that in doing this the Secretary of State has recognised that it is the duty of a Government to mitigate the hardships caused by the uncertain course of exchange, and to do what it can to eliminate the element of uncertainty from its officers' salaries, which is so prejudicial from every point of view. The hardship from which civil servants are now suffering is as acute as on any previous occasion when measures of redress have been adopted. But it differs in its nature from that which existed on the previous occasions in one important particular and, owing to the facts which have been dwelt on in the preceding paragraphs, needs, we submit, different treatment. The consequences of a fall in the value of the currency may be in part redressed by exchange compensation based on the principle of bringing the dollar back to this value. But neither of these remedies is fitted to meet satisfactorily the converse case of a hardship created by a rise in the value of the currency. The case has this special feature that measures of relief occasion no extra cost to the Colony, for the annual estimates are necessarily based on the lowest probable rate of exchange, and the rise in the dollar saves the Colony so much on the Estimates, and this moreover at a time when the Government is profiting by the higher rate in respect of remittances to England. We submit that salaries must bear some definite relation to the cost of living in the Colony in which they are paid, and that they should not be subject to fluctuation:—in the same way pensions to officers in a gold country should be paid in gold, or they also will be subject to fluctuation. What the proper system of payment of salaries to civil servants should be in order to satisfy these two essential conditions, it is not for us at the present moment to suggest, but we submit that the defects in the existing system which the recent fluctuations in silver have revealed are so serious that they can only be met satisfactorily by a revision of the scheme of salaries.

The memorial signed by the heads of departments has some very significant statements. In stating their case they select two cases as typical and proceed:

In making our selection of typical cases we were impressed by the fact, that the additional cost of a married life is far heavier, in proportion to that of a single man, here than at home. It is unnecessary to labour this point: house rent and steamer fares alone would prove it. It seems inevitable therefore that our typical cases should be married men. It follows that they should also be men whose marriage could not have been considered by the Government as an act of imprudence, for the consequences of which they were themselves alone to blame. Further, our examples had to be chosen from different grades of the Service. Again, as the upbringing of children is an ordinary consequence of marriage, we took for our typical cases officers on their highest increment, on the supposition that they had married on first reaching their present appointments; and we have supposed that they have each a family of three young children, the increasing cost of whose later education may be left to the future and subsequent promotion. The types selected by us to answer all these conditions were (A) the Head of a Junior Department on a salary of \$5,400 with compensation, and (B) a subordinate officer on a salary of £345. Table A gives what we consider to be a reasonable rate of living for these two Officers, together with explanatory notes. It also gives the salaries drawn by

them at the present rate of exchange. And if it is alleged in reply that we have endeavoured to prove too much: that were the difference between the necessary and the actual as great as we represent, open crises must have occurred as they have not done; to that we reply, they have been staved off, but in many cases by the most unsatisfactory devices: wives and children have been sent home, with no prospect of return: many of us have given up our houses and sold our belongings, and are living in hotels and boarding-houses and messes like neither married men nor bachelors, and some of us have been compelled to abandon our policies on our lives as we can prove to Your Excellency. Were there any real hope for an early change for the better we might have continued to endure in silence, as we have done for the past several years. But we know only too well that the cost of living is on the increase, and that the higher dollar has brought us no relief. We give in Table B some comparative figures to prove that we do not exaggerate.

The Secretary of State has informed Your Excellency that we are better paid than the Public Servants of most other Colonies—a statement that we are not in a position to controvert, as we have not the information at our disposal that might enable us to do so. Our contention is less ambitious, namely to prove that our pay is insufficient. There are however certain items in our expenses which are peculiar to the Colony, as compared with others in the tropics, which are:—coal, excessive house-rent and the great cost of clothing due both to the need of providing against very hot and very cold weather, and also to the destruction caused by the damp. Steamer fares too are higher from here to England than from almost every other Crown Colony. Table C shows that the enormous rents charged, so far from falling with the rise of silver, have greatly increased when reckoned in that metal, and enormously increased when reckoned in sterling. We have laid great stress on the increasing dollar prices, because therein lies the key to our position. Under no possible circumstances could we gain by the rise of the dollar since being paid in sterling it takes the same proportion of our salaries to make our gold purchases, whether silver is high or low. At the best, if silver prices at once and automatically adjusted themselves to the different exchanges we should be as well though no better off. But as we have shown silver prices so far from showing a tendency to so adjust themselves, even slowly, are steadily on the rise.

TABLE A.

Estimated necessary income at present prices of (A) a Head of a Junior Department (Salary \$5,400 per annum with double compensation @ ½ = \$8,100 per mensem) and (B) a Junior Officer on a salary of £345 per annum (at ½ = \$255.56 per mensem).

EXPENSES PER MENSEM.

	A		B	
	Percentage of Total.		Percentage of Total.	
(1.) Saving on account of passages home and back	\$ 60	7.3	\$ 35	9.8
(2.) Insurance	9		20	
(3.) Rent and taxes ..	1.50	18.1	75	21.1
(4.) Depreciation and upkeep of furniture ..	20		5	
(5.) Doctor	10		—	
(6.) Dentist	10		5	
(7.) Chemist	7		—	
(8.) Transport (trams, chairs and rickshas) ..	20		10	
(9.) Compradore	135		85	
(10.) Fresh milk	35	20.5	—	23.9
(11.) Clothes and boots ..	90		40	
(12.) Light and fuel	20		10	
(13.) Governess or school fees	25		12	
(14.) Servants	85		25	
(15.) Washing	5		5	
(16.) Wine, aerated, waters, ice and tobacco	15		8	
(17.) Recreation and charities	25		10	
(18.) Petty cash	25		10	
	827		355	

These figures are based on a conservative estimate and allow no margin for entertainment.

REMARKS.

- (1.) Estimated at $\frac{1}{15}$ th of cost of return passages. If families are not brought back, the cost of 2 establishments must be incurred.
- (2.) Includes Widow and Orphans' subscription.
- (3.) A. The average rent at the Peak (with-out taxes) is 130; but the cheapest houses are too small for a man with a family.
- B. A 4-roomed cottage at Kowloon or Hongkong.
- (4.) 1% per mensem on (A) \$2,000 and (B) \$500.
- (5.) B. Free medical attendance and medicine.
- (6.) Teeth "go" very badly in Hongkong and dentists' bills are very high.
- (8.) Includes (A) Peak Tramway (B) Electric tram or the Ferry.
- (9.) Includes all stores and tinned provisions.
- (13.) B. includes school material.
- (14.) A.—Boy \$14; cook \$14; wash amah \$13; house coolie \$10; market coolie \$9; bathroom coolie \$2.
- B.—Boy \$10 cook \$10.
- (15.) A. & B. Wash-amah included with servants.
- (17.) A. Included Hongkong Club \$7, and Peak Club \$5.
- B. Includes Cricket and Civil Service Clubs.

TABLE B.

Showing prices of commodities, wages and expenses of living generally other than rents and taxes in 1902 when the dollar was worth 1/8 and in October, 1906, when the dollar is worth 2/3.

Commodity.	1905			1906		
	\$	£	s. d.	\$	£	s. d.
1. Beef (lb.) ...	.14		2 8	.20		5 4
2. Bread (lb.) ...	.05		1	.06		1 6
3. Butter (tin), ..	.50		10	.70		1 6 9
4. Coals (ton) ..	9.50	15.10		15.00	1.13	9
5. Eggs (doz.), ...	.18		3 6	.20		5 4
6. Flour, ...	.05		1	.05		1 6
7. Milk, fresh (pt.),	.16		3 2	.24		6 5
8. Milk, (tin) ...	.23		4 6	.24		6 5
9. Mutton (lb) ...	.20		4	.26		7 8
10. Stout (same) ...	.38		7 6	.45		1 0 1

II.

Other items cannot be stated so exactly.

SERVANTS.—The market rate of wages paid in dollars has increased at least 20 per cent. We can give individually figures in support.

TRANSPORT.—The Star Ferry have increased their rate for a single trip from 10 cents to 15 cents since 1902.

The Peak Tram and rickshas are the same in dollars as in 1902.

TABLE C.

A comparison of the dollar and sterling rents of houses in 1902 and 1906.

N.B.—This return deals with the houses and those only which were in existence in 1902.

Thus the average dollar rental of European houses has increased as the lower levels by \$25 or over 18 per cent, and the average sterling rental has increased by £6.15, or 60 per cent. The percentage of increases for houses at the Peak are 8.3 per cent. and 40 per cent. respectively.

No. of House.	Average Rental per mensem 1902 at 1/8		Average Rental per mensem 1906 at 2/3.	
	\$	£ s. d.	\$	£
Lower Levels, 135 (nearly), (45 houses).	11 5 0		160	(nearly) 18
Peak,..... (over 90 houses).	120 10 0		\$ 130	(over) 14

HONGKONG LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The report for 1906 states that there were admitted during the year 134 males and 28 females, making with those remaining on December 31st, 1905, 15 males and 7 females, a total of 184 under treatment. Of these cases there were discharged on recovery or repatriated 157 (having been sent to Canton), 9 died, and there remained under treatment on December 31st, 1906, 18 cases. Acute mental diseases were not very prominent, there being only 24 cases of acute mania—17 males and 7 females. Chronic mental trouble and degenerative mental changes were more prevalent among the native population. Alcoholism again claims a large proportion of subjects—34.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Principal Civil Medical Officer has written an interesting report on the general sanitary condition of the Colony. He notes that during the year twenty-one houses and a portion of another were resumed in the city of Victoria and these together with 30 others were demolished with a view to reducing surface crowding. It is also pointed out that a considerable improvement is always taking place in the matter of scavenging lanes, but the full effect of the Ordinance in this respect will not be noticeable for a considerable number of years.

Coming to the vital statistics he reports that during the year the births numbered 1321. Of these 293 were non-Chinese (161 males and 132 females) and 1028 Chinese (684 males and 344 females). The birth-rate amongst the Non-Chinese community was 14.06 per 1,000 as compared with 17.03 per 1,000 in 1905 and 13.9 in 1904. The nationalities of the Non-Chinese parents were as follows:—British 117, Indian 43, German 17, French 3, American 3, Portuguese 78, Filipino and Malay 18, Japanese 3, Jewish 5, Dutch 2, Parsee 2, Arabian 1, and Swedish 1.

The deaths registered during the year numbered 8,379. The death-rate was therefore 25.06 per 1,000. These deaths include 842 from plague, and the death-rate has also been largely augmented by the typhoon of September 18th, 1906, and by the burning of the steamship *Hankow*. The total number of deaths amongst the Chinese community was 8,087 which gives a death-rate of 26.41 per 1,000, while the deaths registered amongst the Non-Chinese community numbered 292, of which 267 were from the civil population, 17 from the army and 8 from the Navy. This gives a death-rate for the Non-Chinese community of 14.02 per 1,000.

The nationalities of the deceased were as follows:—Britain 77, Indian 61, Portuguese 52, German 13, Japanese 24, American 9, Malay 9, French 4, Italian 2, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish 5, African 5, South American, Eurasian and Jew 2 each, Parsee 3, Russian, Turkish, and Bavarian 1 each and of unknown nationality 2. Malaria was responsible for half of the deaths among the British Troops.

Among the Chinese population the deaths of infants numbered 1,577, while only 1,028 Chinese births were registered. Taking the corrected birth figure to be 1,611 this gives an infant mortality of 979 per thousand, which proves conclusively that a large proportion of Chinese births must escape registration. The census return for 1906 showed 1,329 Chinese infants under one year of age, and 14,980 Chinese children between the ages of one year and five years.

The total number of deaths from respiratory diseases for the year was 1,632, of which 55 were among the Non-Chinese community, leaving 1,577 among the Chinese population. The death-rate among the Chinese from respiratory diseases was 5.1 per 1,000 as compared with 4.4 per 1,000 in the previous year and that for phthisis alone was 2.6 per 1,000 as compared with 1.9 per 1,000 in 1905. No doubt a number of these deaths were a sequel to the exposure experienced during the Typhoon as the deaths from drowning alone certainly do not represent the entire toll levied by that disaster. The deaths from phthisis amongst the Chinese were 9.8 per cent. of the total deaths amongst that community.

The number of deaths under the heading Nervous Diseases for the year 1906 is 746, of which 635 were of Chinese children under 5 years of age, 449 of these being infants of one year old or less. These deaths of Chinese infants comprise 329 deaths from tetanus, trismus and convulsions and deaths from meningitis. The total number of deaths from malarial fever during the year was 448, of which 13 were Non-Chinese, 9 being from the civil population and 4 from the Troops. In the City the districts in which there has been most malaria are Health Districts 1, 2 and 9 with 22, 19 and 34 deaths respectively. The number for the whole City being 134. In the whole of Kowloon there were 176 deaths. In Shaikwan and Aberdeen there were respectively 37 and 64 deaths from malaria. Since the year 1899 the attention of the Medical and Sanitary

Departments has been specially directed towards the prevention of the formation of breeding pools for mosquitoes, and although the work proceeded very slowly for a year or two, yet much has been done by the fumigation of the basements of European houses (with the consent of the occupants), by the training of nullahs, by the filling in of pools, by the subsoil drainage of swampy ground, and by the resumption here and there of a padi-field which approached too closely to a Police Station or other European dwelling, to considerably lessen the facilities for the breeding of mosquitoes. One of the results of this work is seen in the table showing the number of admissions for malaria, to our two largest Hospitals, during each of the past ten years. It will be seen that the average has fallen from 1,036 in the five years 1897—1901 to 531 in the quinquennium 1902-1906. The year 1906 has been an unfavourable one in regard to malaria as both cases and deaths show an increase over the past few years, while the type has been unusually malignant. This increase in numbers is partly accounted for by the large number of cases occurring among the employees in the new Railway works in Kowloon.

One remarkable feature which is brought out by this Table is the discrepancy between the case-mortality in the two Hospitals. The Tung Wah Hospital is a purely Chinese institution, maintained by voluntary contributions and supervised only by a Government medical officer. The reason however for the high case-mortality at this Hospital does not lie altogether in the treatment of the patients, but in the fact that the Hospital is regarded by the Chinese more as a "home for the dying" than as an institution for the treatment of the sick. Consequently, the great majority of the cases of malaria that are admitted thereto are in a moribund condition, and so near to death that even the hypodermic administration of quinine is of no avail. Could we educate the Chinese to seek medical aid on the first onset of the symptoms of fever, and could we at the same time educate the many Chinese herbalists and native doctors who ply their calling in this Colony, in the efficacy of quinine, many lives would undoubtedly be saved which are now sacrificed to ignorance and indifference. The figures showing Police admissions to Hospital are even more striking than the foregoing, for these admissions have fallen from an average of 32 per cent. of the strength for the five years 1867-1901 to an average of 13 per cent. of the strength for the past five years, and to an average of 10 per cent. of the strength during the past three years. It must, however, be borne in mind that during the first years of the occupation of the New Territories (April, 1899 to December, 1901), malaria was extremely prevalent among the Police stationed there. Since 1902 the disease has been much less frequent due partly to the more regular use of quinine as a prophylactic.

The total number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 1,179 of which 893 were of plague and of typhoid fever 66, as compared with 9 during 1905 and 129 in 1904. The European cases numbered 43, of which 15 were imported. The Chinese cases numbered 12, while 11 cases occurred amongst the other races in the Colony. Five of the European cases, three of the other Non-Chinese cases and seven of the Chinese cases died. In most of the cases of typhoid fever that occur in this Colony the infection is probably contracted by eating salads of raw vegetables, which have been grown in Chinese market-gardens, where it is customary to water and manure the plants with diluted human excreta—both urine and night-soil. Residents in the Far East should carefully avoid such articles of food as water cress, lettuce, etc., in view of this danger of contracting typhoid fever, cholera or intestinal parasites, all of which diseases may be conveyed in this manner. It will be seen from the above figures that this disease is much less prevalent among the Chinese than among Europeans in this Colony. Two cases of cholera were recorded during the year, both of them being Chinese employed on ships in the Harbour. One of the patients died.

During the year 192 cases of small pox were certified, of which 11 were European with one imported case, 168 were Chinese with two imported, and 13 were of other cases with one imported case. One of the European cases,

three of the other Non-Chinese cases and 137 of the Chinese died. The number of vaccinations for the year was 7,450. Thirteen cases of diphtheria were notified throughout the year. Two of these were European cases, one a child, the other an adult. Nine cases were Chinese, one Portuguese, and one Filipino. All the cases of diphtheria, with the exception of one, occurred during the last three months of the year. All the Chinese cases died, and also the Portuguese child. Thirteen cases of puerperal fever were certified throughout the year. One was a Japanese case, and the remainder Chinese. Eight of the Chinese cases died. The scheme inaugurated in 1905 for supplying trained Chinese midwives to attend the poor in their own houses has proved most successful, largely owing to the supervision exercised over these women by Dr. Alice Sibree, who is engaged in medical missionary work in the Colony. Two of these midwives were employed at the beginning of the year, and in August the number was increased to four. They have attended 188 confinements during the year, and exercise a general supervision over the infants, during the first year of life, advising the mothers as to the manner of feeding, etc. Seventeen of these infants have been taken out of the Colony—thirteen to Canton and four to Macao—and some of these are known to be alive and well, while of the remainder six only are dead—one a child that was practically still born, one a child with hare-lip and cleft palate, that died at the third month, two prematurely born children that died during the first week, and two others one of whom died on the second day, the mother being ill with fever. These midwives consult Dr. Sibree in all complications, and she was called to 20 of the above cases. All the mothers recovered from their confinements. There was an unfortunate recurrence of plague during the year 1906, the total number of cases recorded being 893. Five of these cases occurred in Europeans, while 9 were Indians 3 Portuguese, 2 Japanese and one each Parsee, Malay, Filipino and Eurasian, leaving 870 Chinese cases. The death-rate among the Europeans was 40 per cent., while among the Chinese it was 96.8 per cent.

The following number of interments in the various cemeteries of the Colony have been recorded during the year:—

Non-Chinese Cemeteries.—Colonial Cemetery 124; Roman Catholic Cemetery, 1,355; Mahommedan Cemetery, 59; Jewish Cemetery, 1; Parsee Cemetery, 4 and Sikh Cemetery 10; total, 1,554. Chinese Cemeteries, 5230.

PLAGUE MEASURES.

There are at present four Plague Inspectors for the City of Victoria, and one for Kowloon—Inspector Fincher being in charge of Health Districts 1, 2 and 3, and the Peak, Inspector S. M. Gidley in charge (acting) of Districts 4, 5 and 6, Inspector Knight in charge of Districts 7 and 8, Inspector Allen in charge of Districts 9 and 10, and Inspector Mackenzie in charge of Kowloon.

There are eleven coloured foremen interpreters, one for each district of the City of Victoria and one for Kowloon, who supervise the work of the rat-catchers, assist in the house-to-house cleansing, and act as interpreters to the inspectors where necessary. There are five gangs in the City of Victoria each consisting of one Chinese foreman, one artisan and seven coolies. Inspectors Fincher and Gidley have each one and a half gangs, and the other two plague inspectors have a gang each, while Kowloon also has a gang consisting of a Chinese foreman, two artisans and ten coolies.

During non-epidemic periods the whole of this staff is engaged in house-to-house cleansing work, about ten houses or thirty floors a day are dealt with, and each tenant receives three days' notice, in English and Chinese, requiring him to thoroughly cleanse his premises. On the day fixed the gang attends in the street opposite the houses named, and supplies hot water and soap solution to the tenants, and cleans out all empty floors, basements, etc., the tenants themselves cleansing out their own premises without assistance from us. The refuse turned out during this cleansing is removed by the gang to the nearest dust-boat. The soap solution is also used by the tenants for washing their bed-boards, etc., in the street or on the verandah.

When the cleansing work is completed by the tenants the Inspector visits every floor, accompanied by the foreman interpreter and some of the coolies with a bucket of pesterine (liquid fuel) and some mops, and this pesterine is applied to the sides and corners of the floors, and to the skirtings and round the partitions of the cubicles, and to the corners of the stairs, by means of the mops, under the personal supervision of the Inspector. At this visit when the floors are clear of furniture, etc., the Inspector makes special note of the condition of the ground surfaces, the absence of gratings to drain-inlets and ventilators, and the presence of rat runs, and all these matters are dealt with by legal notice at once. In Districts 4, 5, and 6 crude phenol is used instead of pesterine, for purposes of comparison, in accordance with the wishes of the Board on this subject. The tenants are invited, in the attached notice, to allow their bedding and spare clothing to be steamed, in order to destroy fleas and other vermin and their ova, and compensation is offered for all articles damaged. Should a case of plague occur in a house, the Kaifong of the district is informed, and the floor on which the case has occurred is disinfected by the Plague staff, the walls being sprayed with corrosive sublimate, and the floor and the bed-boards washed with Jeyes' fluid or cyllin (half a pint to the gallon); crude carbolic acid is poured into the rat-runs, which are then filled up with cement; and the clothing and bedding is sent to the Disinfecting Station to be steamed. The remaining floors of the infected house are cleansed by the tenants in the same manner as in the house-to-house cleansing. Should there be any ceilings or stair linings in the infected house these are removed and compensation is paid for them, if the case has been duly reported, while illegalities are dealt with by notice. The compensation is, in the case of Chinese, assessed separately by the Kaifong of the districts and by the Plague Inspector, and their assessments are dealt with by a Committee of the Sanitary Board. The Kaifongs are appointed by the Tung Wah Hospital for the City of Victoria, and in the Kowloon by the inhabitants of Kowloon Point, Yaumati, and Hunghom respectively.

Any spare time at the disposal of the Plague Inspectors is occupied in paying special visits to houses in which cases of plague have occurred in the previous season, with a view to seeing that they are free of rat runs and provided with impervious ground surfaces.

The Chinese have established public dispensaries and also district plague hospitals which in the City of Victoria are managed by a Committee of which the Registrar-General and the two Chinese members of the Sanitary Board are members; in Kowloon, a purely local Committee manages the Dispensary and the Hospital. These institutions are supported by voluntary contributions, and each is in charge of a Licentiate of the Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese, who sees out-patients at the Dispensary, performs vaccinations, visits patients in their own homes, and treats the patients in the District Hospital. Cases of infectious disease are notified by these doctors to the nearest District Sanitary Office, and in the case of plague, the patients may be treated in the District Hospital.

HONGKONG HOSPITAL.

The report of the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, published in the *Gazette*, states that during 1906 the number of admissions was 2745 as against 2704 in the previous year. The number of free cases was in excess of 19.5, while there was a marked falling off in the number of paying patients. There were 215 operations performed during the year.

The medical officer in charge of the Victoria Hospital for women and children reports that during 1906 the admissions numbered 278 as against 212 in 1905.

During the year there were 75 admissions to Kennedy Town Hospital and 67 to the Hospital Hulk "Hygeia." The 18 case of malignant malaria, shown in Table I, were part of a batch of 60 coolies working on the Canton-Kowloon Railway, who were sent in on short notice and could not be accommodated elsewhere. They were transferred after two days to the Govern-

ment Civil and Tung Wah Hospitals. The total number of plague cases notified amounted to 891, of which 806 proved fatal, i.e. 90.5 per cent. 49 of these cases were treated in Kennedy Town Hospital and 43 died, i.e. 87.7 per cent. In the Tung Wah Plague Branch Hospital 136 cases were admitted and 124 died, i.e. 91 per cent. It is probable that the true mortality is not so high as these figures would seem to prove, because it is likely that many mild cases at the beginning and end of the epidemic recover without treatment and are never notified. The majority of the cases admitted to Hospital are in an advanced stage of the disease and are practically hopeless.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON.

This report, which appears in the *Gazette*, states that there was an increase in the numbers of cattle and swine during 1905 and a decrease in the numbers of sheep and goats. The decrease in these animals seems to be due to the importation of frozen mutton from Australia. The demand for cattle from Manila has been brisk throughout the year and the high prices the Manila dealers offer secure for the Philippines the best of the cattle in the Hongkong market. Greater numbers of cattle now show evidences of handfeeding, a practice encouraged by the fact that exporters are willing to pay more per pound for such cattle. The total number of cattle admitted to the Kennedy Town Cattle Depot was 52,594, an increase on 1905 of 3,092. Out of these admissions 213 were rejected on arrival as unfit for food. The rejections in 1905 amounted to 672. At Hung Hom Depot 4,962 cattle were admitted against 5,046 in 1905. The rejections at Hung Hom were 21.

The revenue at Kennedy Town was \$78,565.50, an increase on the previous year of \$6,120.15, and at Hung Hom \$438.38; while the collection of fees at Shaukiwan and Aberdeen, were leased to a contractor as usual.

The total revenue derived from the Slaughter House and Depots was \$93,718.88. This is an increase on last year's working of \$13,618.55.

The total amount of animals slaughtered in in the Colony were:—

	Cattle.	Sheep and Goats.	Swine.
Kennedy Town...	22,478	15,275	163,974
Hung Hom	4,663	1,128	28,594
Shaukiwan	—	—	4,574
Aberdeen	—	—	3,471
Total... ..	27,141	16,403	200,586
Grand total of all animals...244,130			

TYPHOON RELIEF FUND.

The following despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies with regard to the report of the typhoon relief fund committee, was laid before the Legislative Council yesterday:

Downing Street,
6th June, 1907.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir M. Nathan's despatch of the 18th of April, forwarding a copy of the report of the Committee appointed to collect funds and to deal with cases of distress caused by the typhoon of the 18th of September last.

2. The inhabitants of Hongkong are entitled to the greatest credit for the energetic measures which they took to repair the disaster and for the liberality with which they subscribed to the relief fund. I note with great pleasure Sir M. Nathan's testimony to the admirable work performed by Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. Hewett, Hunter, Brewin and Fung Wa Chun, and the other members of the Relief Committees and I should be glad if you would express to these gentlemen my appreciation of their services.

3. I cordially approve the proposal that the money which the Government had pledged itself to contribute to the relief fund should be expended upon the prompt commencement of a new typhoon refuge at Mong Kok Tsui.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The report on the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, for the year April 1st, 1906, to March 31st, 1907, appears in the *Gazette*. It states:

On March 31st, 1906, the total strength of the Corps was 274. The total strength of the Corps on March 31st, 1907, was 290. (Both totals include the Chinese orderly, room clerk.)

Now that the New Headquarters have been completed I am confident that the total will increase during the next year, particularly, if the new infantry company, which has been discussed, is started.

During the past year three members have died, 51 have resigned (one on medical certificate, 20 in the Colony, and 30 on leaving the Colony) and one has been struck off the strength. 71 new members have been enrolled.

The establishment of the Troop was raised in July to 43, namely, 1 officer, 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, and 4 Troopers.

The Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association had on 31st March, 1907, a membership of 248, an increase of 18 during the past twelve months. The members have carried out a large amount of rifle practice throughout the year at the King's Park Range, Kowloon, which is more accessible than the Volunteer Range at Tai Hang, and at the Peak Range, which has been recently opened.

APPOINTMENTS.

The changes amongst the Officers and Staff of the Corps have been as follows:—Major C. G. Pritchard, B.A., proceeded on leave to England on 21st December, 1906, Major A. Chapman commanded the Corps during Major Pritchard's absence. Captain F. O. Siedman (Surgeon) resigned his commission on 23rd April, 1906. Staff Armourer G. W. Avenell joined the Corps on 4th May, 1906.

The mounted Troop equipment has been augmented by the addition of Sam Browne sword belts and leather buckets for carrying the rifles; the method of attaching the buckets was well tested at the Troop Camp, and found satisfactory. The Maxim Guns have been thoroughly overhauled; they are now fitted with connecting rods, and new saddles, straps, etc., have been made for them by the Corps Armourer. The whole Corps is now very well equipped in every respect.

DISCIPLINE, TRAINING, ETC.

The Discipline of the Corps has been very good. The following Table gives the number of efficient, etc.:—

Staff.	Efficient with more than 30 drills.	Efficient with less than 30 drills.	On leave.	Medical Certificate.	Recently joined.	Absent without leave.	Non-efficient to pay fine.	Total
Staff	6							6
Hongkong Volunteer Troop ..	15	13	10		1			39
Right Half No. 1 Co.	26	8	4	2	2		1	73
Left Half No. 1 Co.	28	16			1			1
Right Half No. 2 Co.	42	8	7		5			45
Left Half No. 2 Co.	29	13	7		1			50
Hongkong Volunteer Engineer Co.	27	12		1	2			42
Total ..	173	70	28	3	15		1	290

With reference to the above Table it is satisfactory to note that there was only one Non-efficient, whom it was necessary to call upon to pay the Capitation Grant. It may also be mentioned that, without including the Staff, 9 members have attended over 100 drills and 59 between 50 and 100 drills; the record number being 181 drills credited to Gunner A. J. Pugh.

The Artillery Units have drilled throughout the year with the 15 pr B.L. guns and 3 3 Maxims and performed infantry drills. The Troop has carried out frequent mounted drills. The Engineer company has had technical instruction at Kowloon with the oil engines and searchlight in addition to actual working in conjunction with the Royal Engineers with the

various engines and searchlights in the command. This Company has done excellent work throughout the year. On February 13th (Chinese New Year's Day) the Corps took part in a field day. The scheme consisted of the attack and defence of Customs Pass.

GUN PRACTICE, MUSKETRY, ETC.

15 pr. B.L. Practice was carried out on 2nd and 27th October, 1906, and 2nd February, 1907. 303 Maxim Practice was carried out on 17th, 19th and 27th October, 1906, and 2nd March 1907. The Annual Musketry Course was carried out during Camp. Musketry Returns for the Volunteer Troop and Engineer Company are attached. Hitherto it has not been customary to furnish Musketry Returns for the Artillery Companies, but this will be done in future as recommended by the Colonial Defence Committee. Most of the members of the Corps have fired their musketry course, and rifle practice has been very popular, although, of course, it would be far more so if the Corps could have more opportunity of using the King's Park Range now that the Reserve Association has the new Range at the Peak which has been specially built for them. The Tai Hang Range is difficult of access and out of the way. During the year the members of the Corps have fired 45,820 rounds of small arm ammunition, and 4,150 rounds have been supplied to the Reserve Association. 110,000 rounds have been ordered for this year from the Crown Agents.

The Officers and Staff Sergeants carried out revolver practice, and Table VIII shows the results obtained.

The Annual Camp for the Artillery and Engineer Units was held at Stonecutters' Island from 15th to 31st October, 1906. The Troop went into Camp near Sheung Shui in the New Territories from 22nd to 27th December, 1906. This is the first occasion that the Troop has gone into Camp. I hope that an annual one will be held in future as by this means members acquire much useful knowledge of the New Territories.

COMPETITIONS.

The following inter-unit competitions took place during the year:—His Excellency the Governor's Efficiency Cup.—This was again won by the Right Half No. 2 Company.

The following is the order of efficiency.

1. Right Half No. 2 Company, O.C., Captain Armstrong, A.D.C.
2. Left Half No. 1 Company, O.C., Captain Lammert.
3. Left Half No. 2 Company, O.C., Captain Skinner.
4. Mounted Troop, O.C., Lieutenant Ross.
5. Engineer Company, O.C., Captain Crake.
6. Right Half No. 1 Company, O.C., Captain Macdonald.

The Blake Musketry Shield, for teams of eight from each unit, took place on 28th April, 1906, and was won by Left Half No. 2 Company, H.K.V.A.

The Sanders Cup, presented by Captain Sanders, a former officer of H.K.V.A., was competed for the Artillery Units at 15 pr. B.L. Gun drill on January 12th, 1907, and was won by the Right Half No. 2 Company (O.C., Captain Armstrong, A.D.C.).

The Gascoigne Shield for Maxim Gun Practice was fired on March 2nd, 1907, and was won by Right Half No. 2 Company (O.C., Captain Armstrong, A.D.C.). Left Half No. 1 Company, (O.C., Captain Lammert), being second.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A semaphore signalling class was formed during the Summer months.

The Corps took part in the King's Birthday parade with the remainder of the Garrison on November 9th, 1906.

On February 6th, 1907, the Corps had the honour of parading and lining the streets on the occasion of the arrival of H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, Inspector General of the Forces. The Troop furnished an escort.

A small Cadet Corps was started in May, 1906, with boys from the Victoria British School, there are now 12 members. They are instructed in squad drill and semaphore signalling. They attended Camp and many of them have already proved themselves very efficient signallers. It is hoped that their numbers will soon increase.

The new Volunteer Headquarters were opened on December 15th, 1906. The building has

been paid for out of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps Fund with the addition of a sum of \$5,000 from the Government. All the rooms have been well furnished and the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Rooms and the Billiard Room have been completely fitted up out of private funds at no cost to the Government. The building has already proved very popular and I personally feel very pleased that it should have been opened before the departure of Major Pritchard, who made a great point of the necessity of suitable headquarters ever since his arrival in the Colony. I am convinced that this will tend to make volunteerings more popular and trust that the numbers will increase: the separate messes for Officers, Sergeants and file should also improve the discipline of the Corps.

A sub-target machine was requisitioned from England, subject to the approval of the War Office, but the purchase of the apparatus has been postponed until the merits of similar, but cheaper, devices now being tested have been ascertained.

The great expense of building and furnishing the Headquarters has prevented the men being supplied with Winter clothing, but I consider that Khaki is not sufficient for them and I hope funds will now be available to enable me to submit indents for warm clothing to be taken in to wear next Winter.

In conclusion I am glad to be able to report that the Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s of the Corps have all greatly assisted in bringing the Corps to its present state of efficiency.

I am also indebted to Captain A. J. Thompson, R.G.A., (who has since been appointed Staff Officer to the Corps) for the assistance he has given me from the date of Major Pritchard's departure on leave.

INSPECTION.

The Annual Inspection of the Corps was carried out on 23rd March, 1907, by His Excellency Major-General R. G. Broadwood, C.B., commanding troops South China, who expressed satisfaction with the turn out of the men and their drill.

SERVICES.

Corps Sergeant-Major W. Higby and Staff Armourer G. W. Avenell, have done their work excellently.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR CHAPMAN, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.
May 3rd, 1907.

SIR MATTHEW NATHAN.

On July 16 there was laid before the Legislative Council the following despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies with regard to Sir Matthew Nathan's departure:—
Downing Street,
31st May, 1907.

Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 104 of April 23rd, reporting your assumption of the administration and enclosing extracts from the local Press with regard to Sir M. Nathan's departure.

2. These papers afford gratifying evidence of the esteem in which the retiring Governor is held by all classes of the population of the Colony, and I have read them with much pleasure.

3. In the addresses presented to Sir M. Nathan on his departure reference has been made to the many important services which he rendered to the Colony during the period of his administration. I cordially associate myself with all that was said on the occasion, and I fully sympathise with the regret, so generally expressed, that his connexion with Hongkong has not extended to the full term during which a Governor ordinarily holds office. But in the public interests His Majesty's Government found it necessary to invite Sir M. Nathan to give the benefit of his proved ability in another portion of the Empire, and I desire to record my appreciation of the ready way in which he met their wishes.

I have &c.,

ELGIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

Although the Post Office has notified that mail matter may now be sent via the S. B. railway, we recommend readers to stick to the sea route for a while at least. We hear that letters sent overland have not been received.

HONGKONG SCHOOLS.

The Report of the Inspector of Schools, for the year 1906 is published in the *Gazette*. Mr. Irving, prior to his departure, stated that the number of schools (Government and Grant) was 85, an increase of two as compared with last year. The average attendance was 5,496 as against 5,323, the increase being nearly equally divided between the Upper and Lower Grade schools. The Anglo-Indian School has this year been considered as in the Lower Grade, as has also the Berlin Foundling House, since neither of these schools have had any European teachers.

There has been for several years a steady increase in the numbers of pupils attending the Government and Grant English schools. The Private English schools also seem to be increasingly well attended. It is to be noted that the figures for the Private schools are based upon the maximum monthly enrolment, as the average attendances are not obtainable. The figures are at best an approximation; but as they have been arrived at in the same way for several years, the error is probably constant. The majority of the Private English schools give a very elementary education in English. The figures do not include the night schools, of which there are 26, with an enrolment of 494 pupils. The number of pupils at the Government and Grant Vernacular schools is 2,149, to a unit the same as last year. On the other hand the numbers in the Private Vernacular schools continue to increase rapidly. According to a return made by the Attendance Officer, in 1905 out of 118 of these schools only 15 employed methods of imparting instruction. This year, he reckons that the proportion is 45 out of 128. The least that can be said of these figures is that they are evidence of a general tendency towards the improvement of Vernacular education.

The proportion of girls to boys is as about 2,000 to 3,500, or as 4 to 7. This ratio is not even as satisfactory as it appears at first sight, because, as the greater part of the girls are in the Lower Grade Vernacular schools.

The total number of Upper Grade pupils is 777, a satisfactory increase upon the preceding year of over 11%. The number of pupils studying in lower grade schools shews an increase of over 50%.

The cost of each pupil to the Government is an important point in connection with the value of the schools. It ranges from \$99.09 at the Victoria School, to \$8.10 at the Belilios School, Vernacular Side. The average cost to Government of the three District schools of Saiyingpun, Yaumati and Wansai is \$26.42, as compared with \$24.48 at Queen's College. The cost of Uenlong School, \$77.55, is very high when the elementary nature of the work is considered.

Lower grade Anglo-Chinese schools were opened at Pingshan in August, and at Taipo in May. It has been decided to close the little Vernacular school at Sheko from the end of the year. It was the last of the Government schools that gave an education to boys in the Chinese language.

The maximum monthly enrolment and the total of fees collected a Kowloon British School again surpassed all previous "records", being 78 and \$2,101.50 as against 68 and \$1,979 for last year. But the average attendance shews for the first time in the history of the school a slight falling off, from 57 to 55. Mr. James accounts for this by "the unusual heat of last summer, and the consequent withdrawal during the hot months of many of the smaller children". As soon as this state of affairs was realised punkahs for pupils were forthwith provided. A playground is badly needed. At Victoria British School the average attendance was 44, which, compared with the figure for the previous year, shews an increase of eight.

The unhealthy nature of the surroundings of the school caused some anxiety. The expenditure of a large sum of money has been sanctioned, with the object of draining the swampy land near the school, and of clearing the grounds of brushwood. It may, therefore, be hoped that before long the school will be as healthy as it is pleasantly situated. The concrete flooring has given a great deal of trouble, and has made it impossible for the school to be kept as clean as it should be. This defect also is being remedied. The boys of the Upper School were at the beginning of the year formed into a Cadet Corps attached to the Hongkong Volunteer Corps,

with the Headmaster as their Officer. They went into camp at Stonecutter's Island in October. Mr. Williams reports that "the results achieved in signalling have quite justified the formation of the Corps". Provision for Morris tubes, ammunition and a miniature rifle range behind the school will be made in the Estimates for 1908.

I regret to report that the Belilios Public School, Anglo-Chinese Side again shews a falling off in numbers, the average attendance for the year being 82, as against 93 last year. The fees likewise are the lowest that have been collected for many years. The Vernacular Side of the School, which now gives such a good education through the medium of the Chinese language has taken a good many pupils who otherwise might have attended the Anglo-Chinese Side. Nor are things quite as bad as they appear; because I have in the last two years disallowed the attendance of a number of boys who had intruded and climbed into the fold. I do not expect to see any further decline in numbers. The teaching and work of the school is very satisfactory, and worthy of a stronger support by the public.

In pursuance of the policy of making the District Schools feeders to Queen's College, their Classes were reduced from 7 or 6 to 5 in number, and are now called by names corresponding with those of the Lower and Preparatory Schools at the College, though there the lowest Class, Class VIII, has been abolished. Only a very few boys applied for admission to the District Schools after failing to pass the entrance examination into College, under the scheme described in last year's report; but it is too early to be despondent about the success of the scheme. An unusually large number of boys entered the College at Midsummer from Wansai, and incidentally lowered the average results at the Wansai Christmas Examinations. The analogous process of linking these schools with the Lower Grade District Schools was continued. Two free scholars are yearly admitted from Aberdeen into Saiyingpun School, and from Tanglungchau into Wansai School. And this year a free scholarship into Yaumati has been given to the senior pupil of Uenlong School. This last is a step towards bringing education in the New Territories into touch with the Hongkong system.

On the subject of Visual Instruction, Mr. Irving has something interesting to say. He remarks that in the year 1905, the Government of Hongkong, on the initiative of the Home Government, subscribed the large sum of \$3,000 towards a scheme for promoting a better knowledge of the Mother Country among the schools of the Empire. With this sum two lanterns and sets of lantern slides have been purchased and supplied, and a course of interesting lectures to accompany them. These arrived in the Colony at the beginning of the year under review, and steps were at once taken to put them to the best use. There was a considerable difficulty in arranging the lectures to the best advantage, owing to the great distances separating the schools. The Diocesan Home and Orphanage and the Victoria School are more than three miles apart as the crow flies, while the Kowloon School is two miles from either, with the harbour between. Moreover, the weather and the seasons put a limit to the time in which lectures can conveniently be given. The long days of summer call for artificial darkening of the lecture room, and that necessitates closed windows. To submit a closely packed roomful of children, at the end of their day's work, to such conditions, with the thermometer between 80 and 90 degrees, and the air full of acetylene gas, is clearly impossible. The authorities of the Italian Convnt wrote, as early as the beginning of May, "Having to close all the doors and windows, the room became so hot that more than one girl felt giddy. I am afraid we cannot avail ourselves of it during this hot weather. We cannot have the day scholars here when it is dark now, that is after 7 o'clock p.m." At the best, from the beginning of May to the end of September, the lanterns cannot be used. Had it been otherwise desirable, it would no doubt have been convenient to bring the pupils of the different schools into some central place, such as the City Hall, and there deliver the lectures to them all together. But in practice, there seem to be many objections to such a course. Besides others having relation to the

discipline of the different schools and the difficulty of getting the pupils to attend, it was pointed out, and with much reason, that children are much more likely to assimilate lectures given by their own teacher, who will rehearse the main points on the next day, than if they had merely listened to a lecture from a stranger, who was quite unacquainted with the amount of knowledge his audience already possessed.

The lanterns and slides are all that could be desired, and the lectures contain very much valuable information. It is generally agreed that they are too long for pupils who have not been Home, and for whom hardly anything can be taken as known. It is no criticism on the printed lectures to say, that the less slavishly they were adhered to, the better were the results. The lecturer at the Diocesan School gives an account of the interesting variation he made. Mr. Garrett, who kindly undertook to give the course at the Kowloon School, and whose knowledge of London is extensive, gave a course which was quite original, and which proved most interesting to the pupils and also to their parents, who attended in considerable numbers. A very good course was given at St. Joseph's College.

ITALIAN'S MYSTERIOUS DEATH.

As reported on July 17th, the body of an old Italian was found by the police at his residence on Shauiwan Road. It has long been known that the deceased, who has been for many years in the Colony, earned a rather precarious livelihood as a hawkker. He held a licence and was often seen going about with a sack over his shoulders. Shabbily attired, wearing any sort of clothing whether suited to the season or not, he has been a familiar figure on the streets for many years. At one time he kept a shop in Queen's Road where he used to sell things which he had picked up at auctions. Once or twice the police had to take proceedings against him but on those occasions he had a ready excuse and was always able to pay his fine. Latterly he had been living in one of the houses beyond the Kerosene Depot on Shauiwan Road, but for a day or two he had not been seen. On Tuesday the police forced open the door of his room and discovered his body much decomposed, showing that death had taken place some days before. Examination showed a small incision in the throat and the circumstance pointed to suicide. Foul play is not suspected.

One theory with regard to his death is that he got a touch of sun last week which affected his mind and led to his taking his own life. Deceased, who always presented a very sickly appearance, was about 60 or 65 years of age. He spoke fair English.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LTD.

An extraordinary meeting of the Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., to pass a special resolution, was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., on the 13th July. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present Sir Paul Chater and Hon. Mr. H. Keswick (consulting committee), Mr. R. Henderson (secretary), Messrs. J. A. Young, E. D. Haskell, and R. Hancock.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting, and the resolution requiring confirmation. The resolution read:—

That it is desirable to capitalise the sum of \$900,000, being part of the undivided profits of the Company standing to the credit of the Company's reserve fund and accordingly that the same be distributed as a bonus amongst the shareholders of the Company at the date of the passing of this Resolution in proportion to the shares held by them respectively, and that the General Managers be, and they are hereby, authorised to distribute among the shareholders the 2,000 unissued shares in like proportion.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the resolution.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—A call of \$5.50 per share will be made immediately. Scrip will be ready on the 22nd instant. That is all the business gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

SUNDAY MORNING'S SENSATION.

MURDER IN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

CROWD PERMITS FOUR DESPERADOES
TO ESCAPE.

Shortly after ten o'clock on Sunday morning (21st July) a quarrel with fatal results occurred in Des Vœux Road directly opposite the *Daily Press* office. A Chinese foreman in the employ of Messrs. A. F. Watson and Co. was attacked by four coolies, two of whom are said to have been previously employed in Messrs. Watson's soda water factory. In the mêlée one of the coolies attacked the foreman with a knife having a blade about four inches long. This he plunged to the hilt in the unfortunate man's chest, penetrating the heart. With the knife thus in his body the doomed man gave chase, following his assailant as far as the Taiwan Ginko (Bank of Formosa) where he dropped dead. The four men who attacked him then made good their escape, notwithstanding the large crowd of Chinese who witnessed the affair. It appears that deceased was an exceptionally conscientious foreman, and when he found that any of the men under him were not doing their duty satisfactorily, he invariably had them dismissed. Some such incident appears to have led up to the tragedy of yesterday. Because the two of his four assailants who were formerly employed in Messrs. A. S. Watson and Co's factory, did not carry out their duties to his satisfaction he dismissed them, and on Thursday or Friday last they sought revenge by assaulting him. On that occasion they were arrested and taken to the Central Police station, but, as the manager of the factory did not appear to prosecute, the Inspector on duty discharged them. Two men have been arrested.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN DODD.

LATE OF FORMOSA.

Upon further enquiry, we have no doubt that the John Dodd whose death was telegraphed by our London correspondent on July 18th was not Lieut-Colonel John Dodd (as we assumed on receipt of the message) but Mr. John Dodd of the defunct firm of Messrs. John Dodd and Co. of Formosa. Mr. John Dodd resided in "the beautiful isle" for many years and, in addition to carrying on his business as a tea merchant, acted as Consul for the Netherlands at Tamsui. Many old residents in the East will doubtless recollect the graphic and occasionally humorous sketches of the perils, anxieties and worries of the interned foreign residents at Tamsui which Mr. Dodd contributed to our columns during the Franco-Chinese war 1884-5, when the principal ports of Formosa were bombarded and subsequently blockaded by Admiral Courbet's fleet. These sketches, which were published as "The Journal of a Blockaded Resident in North Formosa," excited so much interest in Hongkong and the Treaty Ports that, in response to a very general request, they were reprinted in book form for private circulation, chapters descriptive of Keelung and the adjoining country, as well as of the camphor districts being added. In a short preface Mr. R. Chatterton Wilcox expressed the hope that the author would give to the world at some future date the benefit of his long and intimate connection with Formosa, the results of his close observations as an explorer and whilom sportsman, in a comprehensive work dealing with the topography, ethnography, zoology and geology of the beautiful isle. We are not aware, however, that Mr. Dodd ever set himself the task; no work at all events has been published. Mr. Dodd left the East fifteen or sixteen years ago and settled in North Wales, but in his quiet retreat he has had constant thoughts of the East and remained a subscriber to the *Hongkong Daily Press* to the day of his death. There are still many residing in Hongkong and the Treaty Ports who knew the late Mr. Dodd, and this news of his death will be received with regret.

An old resident, who knew the late Mr. John Dodd when he was a shipping clerk in the famous old firm of Dent & Co., supplements the information given in our obituary notice on Saturday. Mr. John Dodd's father was Captain of one of Dent & Co's famous clippers, and in

the first *Chronicle & Directory* (1863) we find the name of John Dodd entered as a clerk in the firm of Dent & Co., Queen's Road. It was in 1864, when the firm failed, that Mr. Dodd went to Formosa and started business on his own account. While he resided in Hongkong he was devoted to "the sport of Kings," and was one of the Colony's best jockeys. Those were the days when local sportsmen despised the China pony and imported horses from Australia and elsewhere. John Dodd rode in a famous race for the Championship in 1863. The race lay between a horse from Dent's stables and one from Jardine's. Mr. Dodd rode Dent's horse and so keen was the interest taken in the event that one gentleman, just before the race, made a bet of \$20,000 that Dent's horse would win. The bet was taken, and Jardine's horse came in winner by a neck. The bet was paid with the best possible grace, and the winner of it took the next P. & O. boat home. Those were days when the Mexican was in better repute than it is to-day.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

July 20th.

A TAX ON MISERY.

Some time ago a merchant, named Chan Sing Yeong, obtained from the Government the monopoly to tax all people who perform witchcraft and fortune-telling in the Kwangtung Province. The name of the monopoly is the Wo Ping Company. As there are thousands of blind men and women who make their living by these "professions," the Wo Ping Company recently petitioned the Kwong Chow Prefect, the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates, praying that the Company be granted permission to tax these poor creatures \$2.00 per annum as thousands of them earn their livelihood in that way. The officials granted the request, and notices were accordingly sent by the Wo Ping Company to the Blind Men and Women Institution, notifying those that adopt these professions within the meaning of the rules laid down by the Company to pay the tax. At the same time the manager of the Company called on Mr. Ki Pak-Ming, deputy in charge of the Institution, promising to pay the latter 300 taels per annum, if he agreed not to interfere in the matter on behalf of the blind people. After the interview Mr. Ki immediately called on the Acting Viceroy Wu, and reported the matter. The monopolist was arrested and fined 700 taels by the Nam Hoi. He is still in gaol.

The kind action of H. E. Wu and Mr. Ki is thoroughly appreciated by the poor people and four Man-Man-San (umbrellas of honour) are to be presented to Mr. Ki, the deputy of the Institution, in recognition of his kind services.

A BEAR STORY.

A trader surnamed Wong, who recently returned from Vladivostok to his native village, Tong Yuen, in the San Woi district, took two Russian bears, a male and a female, with the intention of exhibiting them in the village. A few days ago the male bear became very sick and seemed about to die.

It is well known that the gall bladder of the bear is regarded as a very useful medicine amongst the Chinese and could be sold at a very high price if taken from the animal alive. Wong determined to make a handsome profit out of the animal. He took the male bear from the cage and got the medicine. On the same night the female bear broke the cage and made its way to Wong's bedroom. Wong was absent, but the bear killed his wife and two children. The Chinese consider it an instance of ursine conjugal fidelity and intelligence.

THE LOITERING VICEROY.

The expectation of the arrival of Viceroy Shum is still the one topic of conversation amongst all here. His Excellency's staff arrived here last week. It is said this morning that his family has also arrived, but I doubt it, as the Throne has quite recently granted the stubborn official another 15 days' sick leave. Viceroy Tuan Fang, who is now almost scared to death over the assassination of the Governor of Anhwei, has memorialized the Central Government praying that he may be transferred to Peking, and has recommended Viceroy Shum as the most

competent man to relieve him. Unless Shum is appointed Viceroy of the Liang Kiang before the expiration of his sick leave, it is expected that he will proceed to Canton within the next fortnight to take up his appointment here. The Viceroy's Yamen here is now under thorough repairs, pending Shum's arrival.

FREE MARKET.

The new market in the Western Suburbs was completed about a year ago, but the place was never let. It is now a free market, and is being largely availed of.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

July 19th.

DEATH OF THE REV. A. C. VICTAL.

The s.s. *Sui-tai* yesterday brought from Hongkong the remains of the late Rev. C. A. Victal, who died on Tuesday at the Peak Hospital. Father Victal was born in Macao, and was ordained a priest at St. Joseph's College. For many years he was attached to the Mission in Malacca where he has many friends. His mother, a brother, and two sisters are among those who mourn his loss.

THE TAXATION QUESTION.

The *Escrivão de Fazenda* is now hard at work distributing requisitions for the payment of taxes. The race of Jeremiah continues to multiply in this "Holy City" and lamentations are heard from the housetops on every hand. The Chinese regard the decree as an intimation by the Government that they are not wanted in Macao. Another petition, I am informed, is to be presented to Senhor Azevedo Continho, and, in the event of an unfavourable reply, something like a general exodus from Macao is contemplated by the Chinese.

A REMITTANCE TO TIMOR.

Timor is locally described as Macao's "sucking pig." The Mail leaving Hongkong on the 27th inst. will take away from Macao the sum of \$40,000. It appears that the pay of those employed in the public service at Timor is thirteen months in arrear!

THE NEGLECTED STATE OF MACAO.

Macao is in more senses than one a City of antiquities. The authorities would seem to have a great veneration for ruins of all kinds. There are many properties in a state of ruin in the City which have become not only eyesores but a distinct menace to the public health, for with a certain class of Chinese they appear to answer the purposes of public latrines. If the rapacious demands made on the local exchequer by the Home Government do not leave sufficient funds for the rebuilding of these properties, it is not too much to ask that the ruins (I refer especially to those in Rua Central) should be enclosed by a hoarding. The measures to prevent the spreading of plague might very well have extended to this matter, and also to the drainage of the city generally. But the authorities have contented themselves with the little spare of energy involved in the burning of the village of Mongha, though plague cases were by no means confined to that quarter.

THE PUBLIC LIGHTING.

Six months have elapsed since the elections to the Leal Senado. It was hoped that the new corporation would have given some attention to the inefficient lighting of the city by electricity. But the lighting, so far from being improved, has become steadily worse. Most of the streets are in darkness after midnight. It is time that the Leal Senado took this matter into their consideration and did something to improve the present unsatisfactory lighting of the streets.

THE DEFAULTING SHROFFS.

The three shroffs, who absconded with a considerable sum of money paid to the Fazenda as taxes, have not yet been arrested. The fact that the control of the Department was so lax as to enable this theft to be perpetrated has given Dame Rumour some excuse for hinting that other unpleasant discoveries may shortly be made.

EYE DISEASES AMONG CHINESE.

The *Gazette* contains a report by Dr. G. M. Harston on the Ophthalmic Department of Tung Wah Hospital in which he states that the objects of the department are twofold:—(1.) The relief of the appalling amount of suffering from eye disease existing amongst the Chinese. (2.) The practical training of Chinese students of medicine in this special subject to enable them more effectually to relieve their afflicted fellow countrymen.

With regard to the first of these objects, it has always been the opinion of oculists at home and on the continent that Egypt was par excellence the country where eye diseases flourish most. A slight acquaintance with the Chinese calls for a modification of this opinion. The Egyptian Government has recently made most laudable endeavours to cope more effectually with the ravages of eye disease more especially with the infectious ophthalmias by instituting a system of travelling hospitals and these have been a great success.

In Hongkong these infectious ophthalmias are always extraordinarily prevalent. I may mention here that in 1905 I made a systematic examination of the eyes of the children in three of our large charitable institutions in Hongkong, the result was the astounding revelation that over 70 per cent. of the children were affected with Trachoma. I considered it my duty to make a report on the subject to the Sanitary Board. The Board was interested but hank from adding to its many labours. I can only add that, should the Government, which at present is evincing such interest in Hygiene as far as school children are concerned, ever desire to deal with the subject, my services if wished for, will be, as far as the exigencies of private practice permit, at His Excellency's disposal.

The infectious ophthalmias have formed the bulk of eye diseases treated during the year. This obtains at all eye hospitals but the relative proportion of those attending at the Tung Wah Hospital for these complaints is far higher than is the case at say the London eye hospitals, not even excepting the Royal London (Moorfields) Ophthalmic Hospital which is on certain days inundated with immigrants dumped in East London.

The main causes of blindness in the Chinese are trachoma and birth ophthalmia. It is pitiful to see the ravages of these diseases. In Hongkong of the two causes trachoma is the more frequent. I have now under treatment a Post Office employe (sent by Mr. L. A. M. Johnston) who in another two months would most certainly have lost his sight from old standing trachoma. This man was going about his work showing the disease broadcast—every individual using the same towels or basin as this man would in all probability develop trachoma and, if untreated, would run a considerable risk of partial or total blindness. I mention this not as an alarmist (though it is high time somebody sounded the alarm in Hongkong) but merely to call attention to a state of affairs which would not be allowed to exist for a moment in England—where in fact children suffering from trachoma are sent to special schools and are not allowed to attend the ordinary schools.

We have then here in Hongkong a disease flourishing which causes in many cases (not in all but in the majority) partial blindness and sometimes total blindness.

This disease is preventable. His Majesty King Edward in another connection uttered the now famous words. "If preventable, why not prevented?" Further comment is unnecessary.

In a small way one has done what one can to check the spread and stamp out existing disease as far as the three charitable institutions before referred to are concerned, and thanks to hearty and efficient co-operation, one's efforts have been in the main successful.

The appreciation by the Chinese of the ophthalmic department is best shown by the following two facts:—A Chinese doctor at the hospital (i.e., employing his own method) sent his daughter for treatment and another member of the Chinese Medical Staff came for treatment himself much to the delight of the other patients as soon as they discovered his identity.

THE KOREAN EMPEROR
ABDICATES.

Telegrams to the *Daily Press* dated Tokyo, July 20th said:—

The Emperor of Korea has abdicated the throne.

In a message to the Korean people Yi Fin says he has occupied the throne forty years, but owing to the incompetence of his ministers he regrets that the country has gone from bad to worse. He therefore vacates the throne in favour of the Crown Prince.

Viscount Hayashi, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived at Seoul on Thursday evening.

Prior to Viscount Hayashi's arrival the Emperor repeatedly asked Marquis Ito (the Resident-General) to come to him. Marquis Ito finally yielded to this request and went to the Palace. He listened to the Emperor's pleadings but refrained from making any statement.

Subsequently at night the Cabinet Ministers met in the throne room and advised the Emperor to abdicate. His Majesty, however, stubbornly opposed the suggestion throughout the night, but yielded at six o'clock this morning.

The Decree was then published.

It is now known that the Seoul Ministers decided on their own initiative to recommend the Emperor to abdicate, and that Marquis Ito, the Resident-General, had no knowledge of it.

In audience later with the Emperor, the Resident-General declined to answer pressing questions as to Japan's policy. The attitude and tone maintained by Marquis Ito convinced the Emperor that he had completely forfeited all confidence in his good faith.

The abdication of Yi Fin is regarded as only a first step towards a solution of the problem presented by Korean affairs. It means also an upheaval in political circles. The principal streets of Seoul on Friday were filled with excited crowds.

THE DETHRONED EMPEROR OF
KOREA.

The following biographical sketch of the dethroned monarch of Korea is taken from an old number of the *Korean Repository*, a journal which was for some years published at Seoul by the missionaries:—

The twenty-eighth Monarch of the Yi or present dynasty first saw the light of day in the summer of 1852, (the year Imcha, seventh moon and 25th day) at the Un Hyen Koong, Seoul, where his aged parents still live in retirement. He is the second son of Prince Yi, who had the rank of Heung Sun Kuu, the first or highest, but who is known better by the title of Tai Won Kuu.

Much confusion exists in the popular mind about the relations His Majesty the King sustains to his father, the National Grand Duke or Tai Won Kuu. That is, most people fail to see why the son should be king and not the father. A few words may suffice to explain. The Queen Dowager Cho who died in 1891 was the Queen of King Ik Chong, who died when he was but twenty-two years of age. His son succeeded to the throne and lives in history as Hun Chong. After a reign of about fifteen years, he died without male issue and the scepter passed to Chul Chong, a younger brother of Ik Chong. The line thus remained unbroken. After a reign of fourteen years Chul Chong died in 1864 without male issue. He had a daughter, we may say in passing, who was married to Pak Yong Ho. The line was now broken.

The Queen of Ik Chong after some manipulation secured the royal seals and, after consultation with some of the courtiers, nominated the second son of the Tai Won Kuu for the throne. This was done by adopting him as the son of her deceased husband. The older brother, Yi Chai Myen, who still resides with his father had already passed the usual examinations and been given official position, so, as it is said, he could not be chosen. We doubt whether this very plausible reason was the real one for passing him by, it being generally understood that his younger brother, who was a very handsome,

healthy, and bright child, was a great favorite of the Queen Dowager. His Majesty, when only in his 13th year, was thus called to be King of Chosen, in the year Kap Cha—1864.

The early years of the young Prince were spent in a manner not unlike that of any young Korean of royal blood. His family was not among the wealthy ones of the land, and it is related that though in humble circumstances he was indifferent to it, believing, as by a sort of intuition, that he would one day fill an influential position in his country. An interesting story is told of his visit, when a mere lad, to a book-binder in the neighbourhood. The binder presented him with a calendar bound in blue paper and playfully remarked that payment was to be made after he had attained an eminent position. The book was accepted on these conditions, taken home and memorized. Years afterwards, so the story runs, when the young Prince had been proclaimed king, he remembered the old book-binder and the conditions on which he received the calendar, and rewarded him liberally. The story may be true or not, but it shows two characteristics that are prominent in His Majesty—kindness and a good memory.

The young Prince received the usual classical Chinese education imparted in the private schools. He was fond of books and made good progress in his studies. The names of three of his teachers are given, the first was of the name of Pyen; the second from the literary province of Choung-chung and his name was Ko Syuk. The third teacher, a man of the Yi family, with the title of Chinsa, probably a Bachelor's degree, was with the Prince for a longer time than the other two, and made a deeper and more lasting impression upon him. His faithful services as instructor of the future King were later recognized in appointing him a magistrate, his oldest son was given the degree of Tai Kwa, or Great Degree, and his second son that of Syo Kwa, or Smaller Degree.

Many pleasant stories are told of the king as a boy. It is said he was fond of sports, was a general favorite among his playmates among whom were included all the boys of the vicinity, and that he was a popular leader among them.

During his minority his father swayed the scepter as Regent, well earning the description given him by a native writer, that he had "bowels of iron and a heart of stone," and he ruled with such vigor for a period of ten years, from the year Kapcha until Kayyou, that his name is by no means forgotten even to this day. The young king, while he had had his hair put up in the top-knot and at the same time, as a matter of course, put on the hat, was not married when he became the adopted son of Queen Dowager Cho; it is stated by some that for eight months, and by others for thirteen, the Queen Dowager held supreme power. The young king was married in 1866 (Pyengin) to Princess Min, the only daughter of Min Chi Rok, who was given, after the accession of the Queen, the posthumous title of the Yeo Sung Bu Won Kuu—Prince of the City of Yuju, Father-in-law of the King. She was born in Yuju, in the year Sinhai, 9th Moon and 25th day, and was therefore about a year older than her husband, the King. Her family was of high degree, but her father was not wealthy and in fact never held any high office and died some years before his daughter was selected as the Royal Consort. She was a second cousin of the wife of the Tai Won Kuu who also belongs to the Minolan, and no doubt her selection was made by the Tai Won Kuu with the idea of strengthening his own influence, believing, as he did, that with his son as King and the Queen a member of his wife's clan, his position as virtual, if not nominal ruler, would be made secure and be perpetuated. But in this the Tai Won Kuu was most woefully disappointed not knowing the well recognized law in philosophy that when two forces come in contact the weaker always gives way to the stronger. The Queen was a woman of great natural ability and force of character, and sought to exercise a commanding influence in the affairs of the nation while continued until she was murdered on the 8th of October, 1895.

Not a great while after she became Queen, the relations between her and her father-in-law

became unfriendly and from that time forward he was in a great measure excluded from any participation in governmental business and forced into a retirement from which he has never emerged, except at short intervals, in some of the troubles which have occurred during the King's reign. In fact, he has been a kind of storm petrel, making his appearance and getting to the front only when there has been trouble and disorder in the country.

The late Queen had received a good education, from an eastern point of view, before her marriage and afterward became a great student and is said to have been the best scholar in the Chinese ideograph of any woman in Korea, perhaps the equal of any in the East.

The Tai Won Kun rebuilt the Kyeng Pok Palace during his regency. His Majesty, when he assumed the reins of power, which his father according to all reports was loathe to resign, occupied the Ch'ang Duk Koong or Eastern Palace, for a period of four years after which he moved into the Kyeng Pok Koong. This however had the reputation of being an unlucky abode, so that, after several years, the Royal Family moved back again into the Eastern Palace where they were during the *emute* of 1884. In 1885 the King, on account of the unpleasant association of the previous year, again changed to the Kyeng Pok Koong, only leaving it in 1895 for a short time. It is one of the strange coincidences that Her Majesty should meet her violent death in the very home she had mistrusted for some years and which was erected by one whom she had little reason to love.

It is foreign to the object of this article to enter into any details as to the untimely fate of the late Queen, or as to the stirring events which have occurred during the reign of His Majesty, this being intended as a brief sketch, personal, rather than otherwise, of the King.

His Majesty is, as compared with the ordinary Korean, rather under size, being about five feet three or four inches high. His face is handsome; when composed, the expression is somewhat inanimate, but when engaged in conversation, it brightens into a kind and pleasing smile. His voice is pleasant, well modulated, and he speaks rapidly, and distinctly. In talking, he is vivacious and speaks with nervous energy.

The King has always been very accessible to foreigners. Many audiences have been extended not only to the diplomatic representatives on his birthdays and other national holidays or public occasions, but also to unofficial residents and to distinguished visitors to the Capital. But little ceremony is required at these audiences. The person going to audience is accompanied, as a rule, by a Court chamberlain and an interpreter, who are of course dressed in Court costume, with the curious winged hats peculiar to Korea, and is received in a plain room. On entering the room, the chamberlain and interpreter prostrate themselves, making the kowtow in the most approved oriental fashion, but the guest is expected and required to make only the three bows customary in occidental royal receptions. Usually His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, receives with his father and holds more or less conversation with the guest.

At these audiences, His Majesty is generally dressed in a red silk coat, very heavily embroidered with gold braid, and with trousers in Turkish style either colored or white. He sometimes wears the gossamer hat similar to those worn by his subjects on the streets, but at other times appears in the simple cap of the scholar which is a band of fine horse hair five or six inches broad or high, opened at the top, and having four or more sharp triangular points around the upper edge. At these audiences His Majesty is affable and unceremonious, always kindly addressing more or less conversation to each person admitted.

While the Koreans have a phonetic alphabet of twenty-five letters, which is one of the most simple and perfect in the world, in the official papers and records, and indeed in the standard literature of the country, and correspondence between educated persons, the Chinese characters or ideographs are used. The use of these Chinese characters, altho' bearing Korean and not Chinese names, sustains somewhat the same relation to the Unmun as the Latin did to the English in Great Britain several centuries ago. His Majesty is well

versed in both Chinese characters and Unmun, and from the Korean point of view, is highly educated. It has been and still is his habit to keep in his suite scholars and historians who read to him and consult with him often. He is said to be more conversant with the history of his own country, both modern and ancient, than any other man in the kingdom. The Royal library is quite extensive and we have it from Korean officials that whenever any question as to old customs or the past arises among the Ministers, they refer to His Majesty who can point with unerring precision to the reign and particulars of any historical event. His Majesty speaks none of the languages of the western countries.

Nominally the Government of Korea is an absolute monarchy, all powers being vested in His Majesty. There is no written or unwritten constitution, no Parliament or Congress, and all the laws are promulgated as Edicts of the King. His word and will are law. In all governments, no matter how absolute or despotic, the ruler is necessarily governed and restrained by old customs and traditions. This of course obtains in Korea, but perhaps to a less extent than in any other Asiatic country. His Majesty devotes much time and attention to public business and is extremely industrious, supervising and overseeing every branch of the government. Indeed the criticism is sometimes heard that he pays too much attention to details and undertakes to do, in looking over every thing, more than any mortal can find time to perform. In a word, the Korean government is essentially personal. His Majesty does most of his official work at night, and the sessions with his Ministers, Advisers and other officers are frequently continued until dawn or after.

His Majesty is progressive and is evidently not imbued with the ideas—may we say prejudices—which are prevalent in most parts of the East, against western people, institutions and customs. He is most interested in educational matters, and material advances have been made in this direction within the last few years. There is a Minister of Education as well as a Vice-Minister and these are influential members of the Cabinet. Public schools, where reading and writing, in both Chinese characters and native Unmun, as well as geography, arithmetic, history and so forth are taught, have been established in Seoul and in various other parts of the country. In addition to these, there are separate schools maintained in Seoul, at public expense, for teaching the English, French, Russian and Japanese languages. There is also a school of Law connected with the Law Department and a Normal school where teachers are fitted for their work. The establishment and maintenance for the last ten years of the Royal Government Hospital in the Capital under the sole supervision of foreign physicians and to which people resort from all parts of the country to get the benefit of foreign medicine, surgery and medical skill, may also be mentioned in this connection.

In religion the King, like most of his subjects, is a Confucianist if Confucianism can be called a religion. He observes like them the rites and ceremonies at the shrines and before the tablets of his ancestors. In the strict sense of the term there is no state or national religion.

Tolerance in religious matters has marked the reign of His Majesty. While, during the regency of the Tai Won Kun, Christians were rigorously persecuted, and in 1866 thousands of Catholic Korean Christians were cruelly slaughtered and two French Bishops and other French priests executed, nothing of this kind has occurred since His Majesty assumed the reins of power. On the contrary, not only has no one been interfered with, but on more occasions than one, the King has given distinct and direct encouragement to missionaries, or as he terms them, "teachers." And on the occasion of an audience accorded to Bishop Ninde of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the beginning of 1895, His Majesty not only expressed his appreciation of the good work done by them, and thanks of the same, but spoke those memorable words which the churches cannot and must not forget "Send more teachers."

The disposition of the King is kindly and amiable. All bear testimony to this. He is certainly a merciful ruler, and sincerely desirous of the welfare and advancement of his country.

While not regarded by the Koreans with the religious veneration with which the subjects of some of the other countries of Asia regard their rulers—while no one claims that he is a descendant of a Sun Goddess, or is the Son of Heaven, or has divine attributes, there can be no doubt that he is universally beloved by the people. He is looked upon as the father of the whole people as the Queen was, during her lifetime, recognized as the mother. We hear frequent complaints against some of the Ministers and other officials, but the people have nothing but kind words and affectionate regard for their King.

Discussing sanitary matters at Hongkong, the *Straits Times* of July 4th says the papers have placed too much blame on the officials, and goes on:—

"In the first place, it seems to us—and knowing the recent history of Hongkong, we feel that we can write impartially and with knowledge of the facts,—that the blame lies primarily with the Chinese residents, who are filthy in their habits beyond all European conception of filthiness. There is not a law known to the student of hygiene which they do not break, and our ragged nature takes its toll periodically in epidemic death-rate. In the second place, property owners have built houses which some of their own architects know to be a menace to the public health. They rented out their property at high rates which could not be paid unless the occupiers resorted to sub-division by cubicles and mezzanine floors until each house became a human warren. Absentee landlordism and rack-renting were two of the curses of Hongkong a few years ago, and we do not know that conditions have changed very much since 1904. If the officials erred at all, it was in being too lenient towards the landlords; and now that the officials are striving to remedy matters—and they have done much good work since 1894, as is known by the few who have an intimate knowledge of the inner life of the Colony—instead of co-operation coming from those who pose as public representatives, obstacles are placed in the way, and hostile criticism is kept up until further action is paralysed."

WATER RETURN.

Level and storage of water in reservoirs on the 1st July:—

	LEVEL.	1906.	1907.
	Below overflow. Above overflow.		
Tytam	13 ft. 8½ in.	0 ft. 1½ in.	
Byewash	23 ft. 6 in.	0 ft. 1 in.	
Pokfulam	0 ft. 6 in.	0 ft. ½ in.	
	Below overflow. Below overflow.		
Wongnaicheong.	1 ft. 7 in.	2 ft. 2½ in.	
	STORAGE GALLONS.		
	1906.	1907.	
Tytam	278,470,000	384,800,000	
Byewash	1,260,000	22,366,000	
Pokfulam	64,920,000	66,000,000	
Wongnaicheong.	6,548,000	27,930,000	
Total	351,207,000	501,086,000	

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE.

	1906.	1907.
Consumption ...	113,695,000	132,731,000 gallons
Estimated population	233,700	205,110
Consumption per head per day	16.2	21.5 gallons

Rider Main in operation during the whole of June 1906 in the Central and Western Districts, and constant supply in all other Districts. Constant supply throughout entire city during the whole of June 1907.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE.

	1906.	1907.
Consumption ...	15,694,000	19,849,000 gallons
Estimated population	79,650	78,500
Consumption per head per day	6.6	8.4 gallons

The Government analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

COMMERCIAL.

The Kobe Market Report, published under the direction of the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade, and dated (Kobe) Hiogo, July, 1907, states:—

IMPORTS.

Cotton.—American.—“Forward” prices have been fluctuating within a small range, quotation for Good Middling at the close being Yen 42. No business, however, is reported at this rate. “Spot” is nominal at Yen 36.50. Indian.—Some “forward” business in new crop has been done at following rates—Broach Yen 29.50, Yeothmal Yen 25.50, Akola Khamguam Yen 24.50. It is surmised, however, that there are speculative prices. “Spot” has remained quiet owing to the closing of mills’ half-yearly accounts, the arrival of contracted cargoes will cover spinners’ requirements for the time being. Suitable Cotton of clean and white staple at present is very scarce. Closing quotations are:—Broach Yen 30; Yeothmal Yen 25.25; Akola Khamguam Yen 24.25; Bengal Yen 21.25. Chinese.—No business is reported in either “forward” or “spot.” Best closes at Yen 29.50; and Common at Yen 26. Shirtings.—Prospects have much improved owing to more general up-country demand, but there is no new forward business to report. Cotton Goods and Fancies, Worsteds and Woollens. No change. Metals.—Home prices are easier. The Osaka market for some articles is still declining, owing to the arrival of cheap contracts and the state of the money market, but an improvement is looked for shortly. Sugar.—Beet.—Market continues firm and quotations are maintained. Cane.—Raw.—Owing partly to the decline in prices in Java, and partly to the setting in of the rainy season in Japan the local market is utterly depressed and no business appears to be passing. Osaka Refined.—The market is lifeless. No auction sales have been held since the last report. Rice.—Steady at previous quotations.

EXPORTS.

Tea.—Settlements to date amount to piculs 41,000 against piculs 40,000 to the 30th June last year. Fish Oil.—Market remains unchanged, 2,000 cases Herring reported to have changed hands at quotation. Copper.—Several hundred tons Electrolyte July August delivery have been brought at Yen 54.50 to Yen 54.75. In other brands business for Europe not feasible yet. Rice.—Market strong. Cotton Yarn.—A fair amount of business has been reported. The market is slightly more active and prices have advanced about 50 sen. Vegetable Wax.—Market unchanged but firm, no transaction reported. Matting.—As farmers have been busy planting out the Rice, only very scanty supplies have come forward from the interior. Prices have been well maintained. Strawbraid.—The production has been greatly interfered with during the past fortnight on account of work in the fields, and but small supplies have come to hand. Prices have been well maintained, and very little new business has transpired owing to the disparity between prices ruling on the producing and consuming markets. Chip Braid.—The same remarks apply also to this description, prices if anything having ruled a little firmer with upward tendency.

TEA.

Messrs. King, Simpson and Ramsay’s Shanghai Tea Market Report of July 6th, states:—Green Tea.—Pingsuey.—Although the market opened on June 16th, four days later than was the case last season, the volume of business to date is some few thousand packages in excess; and despite the fact that opening prices were sufficiently high there has, unfortunately, been no noticeable decline in prices. In liquor these teas are superior to those of last year, but both in make and colour leave much to be desired. The range of prices ruling is from Tls. 26-28 per picul. Hoochow.—Buying commenced as soon as the teas were shown at prices said to be one cent above New York currencies, but owing to the demand tea-men have been able to establish an advance of Tls. 1-2½ per picul. In cup quality and in the make of the gunpowders, these teas, as a whole, stand out well. Prices run from Tls. 29½-34 per picul. Wenchow.—Arrivals have been small and have met with a ready demand at about the same rates as the opening prices last year. The teas are better in every respect than last season and fully warrant the attention buyers are paying them. Country Tea.—Moyunes.—These teas have arrived before the nearer Fychows which is quite unusual. The few chops sold are all of good liquoring quality, but fail in appearance. Prices are much on a par with those ruling at the opening last year. Lines.—Hysons, Chun

Mees, Sou Mees, and Foong Mees of good quality have met with a strong competition and have fetched very full rates, Batoum buyers are the sole operators. Chun Mees have changed hands at Tls. 80-85, Foong Mees at Tls. 50-55 and Hyson at Tls. 6½-70 per picul.

HANKOW, 10th July, 1907.—Business reported since the 26th ulto., is as under:—

	1907.	1906.
Settlements ...	40,331	21,330

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 11th July, 1906.

	1907.	1906.
HANKOW TEA. ½-Chests.		
Settlements ...	377,659	310,052
Stock ...	14,024	77,986

Arrivals ...	392,938	388,038
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	1907.	1906.
KIUKIANG TEA. ½-Chests.		
Settlements ...	171,436	150,835
Stock ...	15,768	18,627

Arrivals ...	187,204	164,462
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SILK.

The following is taken from Mr. F. C. Heffer’s Report, dated Shanghai, July 10th.—Telegrams report quiet markets at home and quote Gold Kiling in London at 14s. and in Lyons at Fr. 36.50. Raw Silk.—A small business in Tsatlees and Coarse silks has been done at declining prices. The market closes very weak. Hand Filatures.—Very little doing. Steam Filatures.—One or two small parcels have been booked for Europe. Yellow Silks.—A small business has been done in Mienchews and Mienyangs at undermentioned rates; but holders are anxious to sell more, and prices have a downward tendency.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.’s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 11th July, 1907, states:—From the figures published in the Customs Daily Returns we find the steamer which left for Newchwang the morning we last wrote took fully 2,000 packages of piece goods and yarn for that port. On the 6th inst. two more steamers cleared, but what they took is not yet declared and nothing has been despatched since. Some further purchases have been made for that market from second hand holders, but these latter are very firm and are gradually raising their prices. Buyers, under the circumstances, are not anxious to go on until advices re shipments are known, and for that reason our market is not so active at the moment. There is still great confidence in the future, however, which is stimulated by renewed enquiries for goods to be reshipped to the States, but native holders want at least 6 per cent. higher prices than they were willing to accept a month or two ago. Holders are confident that the stock of American Domestic is not more than 200,000 bales all told in Shanghai, and anticipate that in consequence, if deliveries are only normal for the next six months, and provided fresh arrivals are small, the stocks of Drills and Jeans will be absorbed, and that of sheetings reduced more than one half. It is feared, however, that no great assistance can be looked for in that part of the country. It is no use, however, anticipating troubles, and unless the deliveries to Tientsin show a great falling off from what they have been the first half of this year there is little to fear. It is satisfactory to learn there are better advices concerning the Korean market. The crop prospects are good and the country in a mere settled and prosperous state generally. There is an enquiry for Manchester Grey goods and distinct signs that they are coming into favour again. The excitement caused last week by the publication of the poor condition of the American cotton crop appears to have subsided for the present, and prices have receded in both New York and Liverpool, the latest quotations from the former being 11.80 cents for December and 11.97 cents for January option respectively, the quotation a few days ago being 12.14 cents for October and 12.20 cents for January. A special inquiry to New York from this side elicited the reply the “probabilities point to higher prices later on. Form backward owing to late planting and unfavorable weather. The general estimate of the crop is 11,000,000 bales.” The Liverpool market has fluctuated considerably since our last report, sinking as low as 7.21d., but closed yesterday 7.30d., ‘futures’ being quoted

the day before at 6.89d. Egyptian is up to 10½d. The Manchester market, although almost unapproachable for Shanghai makes of staple goods, has been found easier to deal with as regards outside makes, and some fresh business in that direction has actually been done. The delivery also is quite reasonable, August to October, but the total transactions do not amount to very much and consist chiefly of grey shirtings. It is almost impossible to touch fancy goods, either dyed or printed, which seem to have been much overdone already. Advices from New York continue to report a strong market, the latest reliable quotations being 13s. 6d. for Pepperell Drills and 11s. 11d. for Pelzer F. There are rumours about that some holders have received instructions not to offer anything at present. The Indian yarn market is more active and holders, who are reluctant for the most part to sell, have succeeded in getting better prices offered for their No. 20s which are comparatively scarce. Buyers will not pay up for Japanese spinnings and business consequently keeps very small and quiet. The local mills are doing very little in the way of fresh business, but clearances have shown some improvement. Cotton continues to be very cleverly manipulated and buyers have to pay full rates to fill their small requirements. The stock returns are going in very slowly, but it is hoped they will be ready next week, as the declarations for this month have already commenced. There has been some business done from first hands again but the bulk consists of re-sales, and even there the tendency is to delay further transactions until more definite news is received from Manchuria via Newchwang. Prices at the Auctions which were looking so firm last week have not been very well maintained.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karburg & Co.’s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai 11th July, 1907, has the following:—Gallnuts.—A poor demand. Merchants are at the same time not anxious to sell. Cowhides.—The season is over. Tobacco.—The new crop is reported as doing well. Feathers.—Season is finished. Merchants are not inclined to offer for “new season” cargo. Cotton.—Little offering. Prices remain steady. Tallow.—There is some inquiry for autumn shipment, but merchants are as yet unwilling to quote. Strawbraid.—Split straw has been neglected of late in this market. Some business has been done in Shansi mottled and Loyeh white, but on the whole there is little doing. Goat skin Rugs.—There is a good demand for Tientsin cargo. A fairly good business has been transacted. At somewhat lower prices merchants would not find any difficulties in disposing of large lots. Wool.—Sheep’s.—Market remains very firm. Wool Oil.—We have a very strong market. Prices have advanced 10 per cent. during the past fortnight. Antimony.—Prices are declining fast. Even at present low prices no business can be booked.

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.’s Share Report for the week ending July 11th, 1907, has the following:—There has been a fair amount of business done during the last week, and a satisfactory increase of cash business has to be recorded. The rates have remained on the whole very steady, and there are but few changes to report. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/11½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. Business has been done at \$680 for the old shares and \$500 for the new, and the market closes steady. The London rate of July 6 was £77.15s. ex new. Marine & Fire Insurance.—There is no business reported this week. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas remain at Tls. 29 for the preferred and Tls. 21 for the deferred shares, closing firm. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. There are sellers of both ord. and preference shares at Tls. 47 and Tls. 50 respectively. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Some business has been done during the week at Tls. 75½ for July, and Tls. 76 for September and December. At the close there is some inquiry, and for December shares are wanted at Tls. 77. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quoted from Hongkong at \$105 buyers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. There is some demand for cash shares, and at closing the price is Tls. 223½. For July sellers prevail at Tls. 225, while for September shares are wanted at Tls. 228. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been sold to Hongkong this week at \$75. Sugar Co.—A single transaction in Peraks is recorded at Tls. 89 for cash. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. Shares changed hands at Tls. 15.75 and there is a demand at the close at Tls. 15.90.

Lands.—Shanghai Land Invest. The dividend having been paid the old and new shares are now of equal value and are both quoted as Tls. 101 ex dividend buyers. Anglo-French Lands have been placed at Tls. 100. Industrial.—A small lot of Ewos changed hands at Tls. 63 for cash, and a strong demand for September caused rates to advance from Tls. 66 to Tls. 67. Internationals. Shares have been placed at Tls. 50 for cash and Tls. 53 for December. Laou Kung Mows. There are buyers at Tls. 82½ for cash and Tls. 87½ for September. Shanghai Gas Co. The dividend has been paid this week and old and new shares become of the same value. The rate, at closing is Tls. 105½ buyers. Maatschappij, l&c. in Langkats. Shares have been placed at Tls. 292½ for July, and Tls. 297½ for September. A cash transaction at Tls. 290 was reported yesterday. Shanghai Sumatras have had a substantial advance during the week and cash shares have changed hands from Tls. 110 to Tls. 117½, closing firm at this figure. Anglo-German Brewery Shares are on offer at \$90. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz shares have been placed at \$21½. S. Moutrie & Co. An offer is wanted for shares. The nominal figure is \$48. Astor House Hotel Shares have been dealt in at \$28½. Shanghai Horse Bazaars. There are sellers at Tls. 42½. Shanghai Mutual Telephones have changed hands at Tls. 56½, closing with sellers at the latter figure.

HONGKONG, 19th July, 1907.—Our market has ruled somewhat quieter during the past week, but rates generally have been fairly well maintained, and in some instances show a slight improvement. Exchange on London closes at 2½ T.T., and on Shanghai at 72½ T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have hardened a little, and have been booked at \$685, old ex new, after sales at \$68½. At the close a few more shares are procurable at the higher rates, and at \$522½ for the new issue, first call paid. London quotes £80 and £60 for the old ex new and new issues respectively. Nationals are unchanged at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$770 and close in further request. China Traders are still in demand at \$90, and Cantons at \$270, the latter after fairly extensive sales at the rate. North Chinas have been bought from the north at Tls. 73½ and more shares are wanted. Yangtszes are quiet at \$180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been fixed at \$320, and Chinas at \$88, both closing with probable sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue on offer at \$30. Douglases have sold and are still wanted at \$41. Indo-Chinas are steady at \$70 cum dividend, the Shanghai quotations being Tls. 30 for the preferred with buyers, and Tls. 22 for the deferred, nominal Star Ferries have declined to \$25 (old) and \$14 (new), the latter with sales. Shell Transports have been fixed at 42s. 6d. ex dividend and new issue, and more are wanted. China and Manilas are unchanged at \$15.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are easier with sellers at \$100. Luzons continue on offer at \$21.

MINING.—Raub's have been disposed of at \$6, at which more shares are procurable. Charbonnages are still enquired for at \$480.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after small sales at \$100 and \$101, are in further request at the higher rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are still in the market at \$79, and a slightly lower rate would probably be accepted. New Amoy Docks are procurable at \$11½, and Shanghai Docks at Tls. 74. A telegram from the north announces that the Shanghai Docks will pay a dividend of Tls. 3 per share for the year ending 30th April last, as against Tls. 8 for the previous year. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are quoted at Tls. 224 buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue on offer at \$104, and Kowloon Lands can be procured at \$37. West Points are quiet at \$50. Humphreys' Estates have sold and have further sellers at \$10½. Hongkong Hotels are unchanged with sellers at \$118.

COTTON MILLS.—Quotations are unchanged, and we have no business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been placed in fair quantities at \$9 to \$9.30, and more shares are wanted at the latter rate. Dairy Farms have been booked at \$15 and close with buyers. China Providents can be procured at \$9, and Electrics at \$14½. Green Island Cements are quoted at \$17 with probable sellers.

Quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$685, x.n.i. sel. \$522½, n. i. sel., (£15 p'd up) Ln £80, x.n.i. Ln £60, n. i., (£15, paid up)
National B. of China	£6	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$7, buyers
China-Borneo Co...		\$12, buyers
China Light & P. Co.		\$10, buyers
China Provident		\$10, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 64
Hongkong	\$10	\$11½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 50
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 82½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 330
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15, sales & buy.
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$79, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$101, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$11½
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 74
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 224
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$17½, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$17, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$118, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$245
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$10	\$22½, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$270, sales & buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$88, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, sales & sel.
North China	\$25	Tls. 73½, sales
Union	\$100	\$770, sales & buy.
Yangtsze	\$60	\$180
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$104, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 101
West Point Building	\$50	\$50
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$480, buyers
Raub's	18/10	\$6, sales & sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$10½, x. new buy.
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$1½, (new) buy.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$100, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$15
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$41, buyers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$30, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$70, c.d.
Shell Transport Co	\$1	\$42/6, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$14, sales
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$22
Steam Laundry Co. ...	\$5	\$7
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10½, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12½

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 19th July.—Freights continue about the same as last reported. From Saigon to Hongkong, several medium sized carriers have been closed at 12 to 13 cents per picul; to S'hai, a 50,000 picul boat got 22 cents, and a small handy sized steamer 25 cents with option of Ningpo at 26 cents; to one port Philippines, 28 cents. Philippines currency has been paid, but as low as 2 cents has been accepted in Manila for a local boat; to one port North Coast Java, 20 cents per picul last; to Japan, no inquiry. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents

per picul; to Japan, 10/6 per ton last. From Bangkok to Hongkong, 27½ and 20½ cents. From Singapore to Shanghai, a fixture reported, particulars as below. From Newchwang to Canton, no demand; to Amoy, 2½ last. Coal freights are weaker. From Moji to this, \$1.65 per ton last; to Singapore, \$1.75; to Canton, \$2.40; to Swatow, \$1.90; Wakamatsu to Hongkong, \$1.70; to Canton, \$2.58. The following are the settlements:—
Dott—Norwegian steamer, 629 tons, Wakamatsu to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.
Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, Moji to Canton, \$2.40 per ton.
Yatshing—British steamer, 1,424 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$1.90 per ton.
Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Hongkong to Canton, \$1.90 per ton.
Chunsang—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Hongkong to Canton, \$1.75 per ton.
Tinhaw—British steamer, 902 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 20 cents per picul.
Tolv—Norwegian steamer, 740 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 27½ cents per picul.
Fiume—German steamer, 838 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, 28 cents per picul.
Landrat Scheiff—German steamer, 1,012 tons, Singapore to Shanghai, \$11,500 lump sum option Hongkong, \$2,500 lump sum.
Knivsberg—German steamer, Nauchow to Macao, 14 cents per picul.
Knivsberg—German steamer, 646 tons, Nauchow to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Standard—Norwegian steamer, 894 tons, Saigon to Shanghai, 25 cents, Ningpo, 26 cents per picul.
An Indo China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Shanghai, 22 cents per picul.
Ulv—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to Iloilo, 28 cents P. C. per picul.
Taishan—British steamer, 1,042 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.
Taiwan—British steamer, 1,042 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.
Bourbon—French steamer, 907 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Pheumpenh—British steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Hopsang—British steamer, 1,359 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Frijof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, monthly, four months, at \$4,650 per month.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	MONDAY, July 22nd.
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	278½
Credits 4 months' sight	28½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	226½
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	54½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	164½
Bank, on demand	165
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	164½
Bank on demand	165
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	108
ON MANILA.—On demand	108½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	6 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	13½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	67½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.0
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$47.50
BAR SILVER, per oz	31½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

	per cent.
Chinese 2) cents pieces	\$3.68 discount.
" 10 " "	9.50 "
Hongkong 20 " "	8.20 "
" 10 " "	8.40 "

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez)—Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Shanghai—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—

ARRIVALS.

- 11, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 12, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
- 12, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
- 12, Orland, Nor. str., from Hamburg.
- 12, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 12, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 12, Signal, German str., from Hoihow.
- 12, Silesia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 12, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Wingsang, British str., from Moji.
- 13, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 13, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 13, Hermann Lerche, Rus. str., from Hankow.
- 13, Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.
- 13, Manche, French str., from Haiphong.
- 13, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Singapore.
- 13, Yesan Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 14, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
- 14, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
- 14, Hilary, German str., from Macassar.
- 14, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Nerite, Dutch str., from Palembang.
- 14, Prometheus, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
- 14, Standard, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 14, Taiyuan, British str., from Melbourne.
- 14, Willehad, German str., from Bremen.
- 14, Yangtze, British str., from Tacoma.
- 15, Fri, Norwegian str., from Tourane.
- 15, Hue, French str., from K. C. Wan.
- 15, Spier, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 15, Triumph, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 15, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 16, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
- 16, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
- 16, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 16, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
- 16, Kiyo Maru, Jap. str., from Dairen.
- 16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 16, Tolv, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 17, Alcinous, British str., from Foochow.
- 17, Doff, Norwegian str., from Wakamatsu.
- 17, Heimdal, Nor. str., from Newchwang.
- 17, Helene, Ger. str., from Swatow.
- 17, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Hupeh, British str., from Hoihow.
- 17, Kutsang, British str., from Singapore.
- 17, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 17, Masan Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
- 17, Nichibei Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
- 17, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 17, Preussen, German str., from Yokohama.
- 17, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 17, Sunde, British str., from London.
- 17, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 17, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 17, Zieten, German str., from Bremen.
- 18, Clara Jensen, German str., from Saigon.
- 18, Nippon, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Numantia, German str., from Portland.
- 18, Sarpedon, British str., from Singapore.
- 18, Syria, British str., from Yokohama.
- 18, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 18, Vandalia, German str., from Keelung.

July—

DEPARTURES.

- 12, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 12, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
- 12, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
- 12, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
- 12, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Teo Pao, German str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 12, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 13, Atlantis, American str., for Manila.
- 13, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 13, Cheongshing, British str., for Tientsin.
- 13, China, British str., for Europe, &c.
- 13, Goto Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 13, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
- 13, Hopsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 13, Japara, British str., for Singapore.
- 13, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
- 13, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
- 13, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 13, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 13, Silesia, German str., for Singapore.
- 13, Van Onthoorn, Dutch str., for Sourabaya.
- 13, Vienna, British str., for Sourabaya.
- 14, Aberlour, British str., for Yokohama.
- 14, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 14, Phuyen, French str., for Saigon.

- 14, Taki Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
- 14, Yesan Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 14, Yochow, British str., for Swatow.
- 15, Glenesk, British str., for Moji.
- 15, Hermann Lerche, Rus. str., for Singapore.
- 16, Chihli, British str., for Haiphong.
- 16, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 16, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 16, Ischia, Italian str., for Singapore.
- 16, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 16, Signal, German str., for Hoihow.
- 16, Skramstad, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 16, Standard, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 16, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 16, Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Willehad, Ger. transport, for Kiauchow.
- 17, Athenian, British str., for Shanghai, &c.
- 17, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Kobsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
- 17, Kumeng, British str., for Singapore.
- 17, Machew, German str., for Swatow.
- 17, Manche, French str., for Haiphong.
- 17, Nanchang, British str., for Chefoo.
- 17, Preussen, German str., for Europe, &c.
- 17, Solstad, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 17, Zieten, German str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Ceylon Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 18, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
- 18, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 18, Hue, French str., for K. C. Wan.
- 18, Manila, German str., for Sydney.
- 18, Syria, British str., for Singapore.
- 18, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
- 18, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
- 18, Wingsang, British str., for Moji.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sunda*, from London, Capt. R. H. F. McCulloch, Capt. T. S. Tancred, Messrs. W. John, F. Farr, A. H. Hatherley, T. Griffin, H. Peters, P. H. Lacon and H. Case and servant.

Per *Syria*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. T. Sakurai, and Mrs. Kiku; for London, Mr. R. B. Payne, and Mrs. Powles and infant; from Yokohama, for London, Messrs. A. L. Robertson, H. E. Craig, A. J. Rankin and A. Parker.

Per *Taming*, from Manila, Miss Maxima Francisco, Miss Benita Pintig, Miss Marnerta Salvador, Messrs. L. D. L. Buckley, I. Prenatt, Geo. P. Valentijas, Jose Flores, Victorina Salvador.

Per *Persia*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Roller, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Ammerman, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Osborne, Mrs. M. Hempstead, Miss L. Jones, Miss C. Rhodes, Messrs. A. R. Fletcher, S. A. Markham, C. Tavera, A. Tavera, J. G. Myers, E. D. Wright, C. B. Rohr, P. B. Jones, D. P. Branson, W. W. Coleman, A. M. Kirby, H. C. McKenty, H. M. Harrop, James Carter, C. S. Schultz, L. Marston and A. J. Israel.

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DEPARTED.

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Per *Athenian*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai and Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Paulier, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest and child, Mrs. and Miss Zacker, Mrs. Hayes, Capt. Philpott, Messrs. A. E. Bickley, T. E. Moore, Husted, Luis M. Lierra, John Buchan, J. R. Ritchie, S. P. Shelps, Wm. Waterspoon, N. B. Pittingall, D. Le Souef and W. Wilson.

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